

THE JOURNAL

Friday, August 1, 2003

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Inside Block parties planned for El Cerrito's National Night Out [A5]

Arts New theater group makes debut with "Oliver!" at Albany High [C3]

District agrees to keep counselors

Teachers voted for the contract deal, which will keep jobs and some music and art programs

By Kara Shire
STAFF WRITER

After months of behind-the-scenes wrangling and parental lobbying, West Contra Costa teachers and district officials ratified on Tuesday an agreement that will keep class sizes small and counselors in the schools. The accord also saves 217 teaching positions from the budget and maintains some elementary music and art programs. Teachers ratified the contract agreement in a mail-in vote. Of the estimated two-thirds of the membership that cast ballots, 76 percent favored the agreement, United Teachers of Richmond officials said.

The West Contra Costa school board approved the deal unanimously several hours later.

"I just knew that we would find a way to agree," said school board President Pat Player. "The teachers have always come through for the children. As a community, we need to realize that." The teachers union and district reached the tentative agreement last month.

Each of the district's employees made concessions in the \$14 million in budget cuts. Teachers said they will defer 2 percent pay raise for two years.

In return, the school district will restore small class sizes in grades K-3 for two years and rehire school counselors for at least one year.

Elementary prep periods, which allow time for music, art and other specialty classes, also will be reinstated.

The agreement is a major victory for parents, hundreds of whom spent countless evenings at school board meetings begging district officials to keep class sizes small and counselors in schools.

This is an example of the power and the community really coming together and putting the first," said parent Laura Soble.

COUNSELORS, Page A8



JEWEL BLECKINGER works on a tennis racket at the shop she owns with her husband, Chuck, in El Cerrito, while keeping her voice in tune for next week's performance. A singer and scholar of spirituals, Bleckinger will perform next week at a festival and symposium next week at Cambridge University in England.

Singer takes spirituals abroad

■ Tennis is her racket, but soulful slave-era songs are a passion for talented El Cerrito resident

By Martin Snapp
STAFF WRITER

On Monday the venerable halls of Cambridge University in England will ring with the sounds of traditional Negro spirituals, including "Wade In The Water," "Peter Go Ring Dem Bells," "Heaven, Heaven," and "Mah Lawd Says He's Goin' To Rain Down Fire." They will be performed by spirituals singer and scholar Jewel Bleckinger.

This might come as surprise to East Bay tennis buffs, who know her as co-owner (with her husband, Chuck) of Bleckinger's Pro Tennis Shop in El Cerrito — or, as it's popularly known in local tennis circles, "the watering hole."

"When I'm not singin', I'm stringin'," she says.

In the shop, autographed pictures of Arthur Ashe, John McEnroe, Rod Laver, Bjorn Borg and other tennis greats share space with music scores by composers H.T. Burleigh, Margaret Bonds and William Grant Still, who incorporated spirituals in their works.

"Spirituals are not the same thing as gospel music," says Bleckinger. "Gospel music was composed after the Civil War; and it's joyful music, celebrating the slaves' liberation. Spirituals come from the pre-war era, 1619 to 1863. They're the songs the slaves sang. Most of them are secret instructions about how to escape, written in a code the slave masters couldn't understand. We call them 'signal songs.'"

For instance? "Wade in the Water" is practical advice. The bloodhounds can't follow your scent if you're in the river. "Peter Go Ring Dem

Bells" refers to the slaves' custom of ringing church bells to tell everyone on the plantation that someone had escaped to Canada — or, as it's called in the signal songs, "Heaven." "Peter" was a Quaker abolitionist named Old Peter, who smuggled hundreds of slaves on the Underground Railroad. And in "Mah Lawd Says He's Goin' To Rain Down Fire," the "fire" is the Union army.

Bleckinger, who has spent many years studying spirituals as well as singing them, finds their echoes in later African-American music such as the blues, just as there are echoes of Gospel music in R&B and even rap. Together, those twin strains — sadness and celebration — continue to intertwine in African-American music like a cultural double helix.

Everyone knows African-American culture has had a profound influence on mainstream American culture, but Bleckinger also detects some subtle influ-

ences going the other way. Her research has convinced her that the substitution of "d" for "th," as in "Peter Go Ring Dem Bells," comes from the dialect of German-speaking slaveholders, since it doesn't occur in any African languages.

Bleckinger has been listening to spirituals "ever since I was a little thing" in Pleasant Grove, Miss. The descendant of slaves, she grew up during the Civil Rights movement, deeply affected by the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and the music of Mahalia Jackson, the Rev. C.L. Franklin, and his daughter, Aretha.

Her taste turned to classical music after she heard a record of Metropolitan Opera star Leontyne Price — another African-American woman from Mississippi — singing Schubert lieder (art songs). She started studying German and taking classical voice lessons, concentrating on Schubert.

See BLECKINGER, Page A8

Urban forest plan sought

■ Consultant, some city officials say El Cerrito needs to spend more, plan better, to keep city's trees, landscaping healthy

By Alan Lopez
STAFF WRITER

EL CERRITO — Walking along the sidewalk behind the El Cerrito High School sports field, on Colusa Avenue, Rosemary Loubal pointed out the decay of 20 young trees.

Two of the Chinese pistache trees have red leaves that should be green. The bark on several of the trees has come off the base of the thin trunks. Four of the trees are dead, the delicate branches completely bare, and another tree has disappeared completely.

What started with good intentions has turned to ruin because of lack of water and mulching, and general neglect, said Loubal, chairwoman of the city's parks and recreation commission.

To have just put the trees there, without any care, Loubal said, "it's like leaving babies out here."

The problem with the Colusa Avenue trees is that residents on that street who were supposed to take care of them failed to, said Loubal. To minimize future tree casualties, Loubal wants to the city to create an urban forest plan.

The plan would inventory all El Cerrito trees and provide guidelines for which kinds should be planted where. It would also offer options, with estimated costs, for various maintenance and planting plans, said maintenance and engineer services manager Bruce King.

"An urban forest plan wouldn't necessarily mean more trees," said Loubal. "But it would say you manage the trees you have and that's what we have not had since 1991."

A consultant who reported that landscaping and tree maintenance is at a bare minimum also has recommended that the city create a plan.

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Local author to preach that she is practicing

By Martin Snapp
STAFF WRITER

She didn't take long after last year's tragic accident in Santa Cruz — when an 86-year-old woman plowed through a farmers market, killing 10 people and injuring dozens more — for the city to start saying old people lack the mental faculties to drive behind the wheel. Kind of talk makes mental health expert Connie Lynch

pens to somebody who's older, they immediately trot out the A-word (Alzheimer's). I've been working with people who are well over 90 and are still unbelievably sharp. It all depends on how much you're willing to do to stay alert."

At 72, Lynch is a walking advertisement for her own program's success. The Kensington resident holds both bachelor's and master's degrees in microbiology and a doctorate in education. She is the author of the book "Don't Lose Your Mind" and the winner of the 2002 MindAlert Award from the American Society of Aging.

And starting with this issue, she will be writing a weekly advice column for this paper about staying alert in one's golden years.

See LYNCH, Page A8



KENSINGTON RESIDENT Connie Lynch begins a column for seniors, "Don't Lose Your Mind," in today's issue of the El Cerrito Journal.

ALBANY COUNCIL ROUNDUP

Measure F efforts lined up

By Alan Lopez
STAFF WRITER

ALBANY — Three projects paid for by Measure F are under way or are scheduled to be implemented this summer and fall, according to a report by the city administrator.

They include Memorial Park Phase I improvements, pavement improvements and traffic-calming measures.

Recommendations for other projects will emerge through the development of a parks and recreation master plan and the traffic and safety commission hearings on pedestrian, bicycle and motorist work priorities.

Work is also being done to develop a recommendation to the City Council on seismic and structural improvements to the police and fire stations and City Hall.

Measure F was a \$14.5 million bond measure passed by Albany voters last November to pay for infrastructure improvements, including improving recreational facilities and parks, traffic safety and street repair.

City Administrator Beth Pollard gave the council a progress report on how the money is being spent at its July 21 meeting.

The City Council and all of the city's commissions, committees and boards will be on vacation in August, unless there is pressing business.

The council formalized the city recess in a resolution at its last meeting and also chose to suspend the August meetings of the city's boards and commissions, most of which meet once a month.

The council had previously suspended its two monthly meetings in August, but had never passed a resolution announcing it.

"We wanted to put it in policy so boards and commissions would have direction and authorization," Pollard said.

The resolution also says the council and the boards and commissions will not meet between Dec. 23 and Dec. 31.

The city's and school district's share of the cost of providing a police officer for Albany High School will increase, because a grant that paid for the program will expire Aug. 31.

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Martin Snapp

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NEW BRIEFS

Albany

Rec Commission needs one more member

Residents are encouraged to apply for a vacancy on the city's park and recreation commission. The position, appointed by the Albany School Board, runs now through June 30, 2004. A completed letter-of-interest form must be submitted today to the Board of Education, Albany Unified School District, 904 Talbot Avenue, Albany, 94706. Call the office at 510-558-3750, ext. 7, for a form.

Spoken, written poetry workshop for teens

A workshop for high school students interested in poetry on the page and in performance will be held 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays, Aug. 11 to 22, at the Albany YMCA, 921 Kains Ave. The workshop will explore literary devices such as rhythm, metaphor and the power of voice and culminate with a spoken-word performance.

The workshop costs \$60. For details, call 510-525-1130.

Albany-Berkeley

Time to sign up for space at Solano Stroll

Nonprofit organization and businesses are invited to sign up for booth spaces, the parade and arts and crafts spaces for the Solano Avenue Stroll. The stroll will be held in Berkeley and Albany 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 14.

Applications can be obtained at www.solanostroll.org, or send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to The Solano Stroll, 1563 Solano Ave., PMB #101, Berkeley CA 94707. People should specify which type of application they want.

El Cerrito

Most residents get new recycle bins soon

The city will roll out its new curbside recycling program Aug. 25 to Aug. 29, when two new larger bins will be delivered to single-family homes and apartment buildings with four units or fewer.

One bin will be used for all glass jars, steel and aluminum cans and plastic bottles. The other will be for mixed paper, including newspapers and bundled cardboard.

The city also will begin accepting narrow-necked plastic bottles, marked No. 1 through No. 7, in all colors. Residents make keep the old green recycle buckets or bring them to the recycling center at 7501 Schmidt Lane.

The new program will be introduced during a recycling information meeting at 7 p.m. Monday, Aug. 11, in the City Council chambers in the community center, 7007 Moers Lane. For more information, call 510-215-4350.

Farmers market moves to temporary spot

The farmers market has moved to the parking area behind Albertsons, on the southeast end of the El Cerrito Plaza shopping center, while the plaza undergoes renovations.

The open-air market will remain there through the fall while construction along Cerrito Creek on the south end of the plaza and the installation of Copeland's sporting goods store are completed.

The market is held Tuesdays and Thursdays and is scheduled to move back to its original location on the southwest end of the plaza, near the Macaroni Grill, once construction is complete.

County seeks domestic violence adviser

Contra Costa County Supervisor John Gioia is seeking a qualified, motivated candidate to join the county's Advisory Council Against Domestic Violence.

The primary purpose of the ACAD is to reduce and prevent domestic violence, family violence and elder abuse in Contra Costa County by developing recommendations for the Board of Supervisors.

Successful candidates must live in District 1, which encompasses Richmond, San Pablo, El Cerrito and surrounding unincorporated areas. Knowledge or background in family violence prevention or education is desirable. People with backgrounds in health, the faith community, social work, education or law are encouraged to apply. The council meets every four months, with subcommittee meetings monthly or bimonthly.

Obtain an application from the clerk of the Board of Supervisors by calling 925-335-1900 or on the Web at www.co.contracosta.ca.us/maddybook/commapplform.pdf.

Volunteers need to help with registration

El Cerrito High School is asking for parent volunteers to help students register 1 to 5 p.m., Aug. 18-21. The school needs about six to eight volunteer workers each day.

For details, call Diane Sericati at school 510-525-0234, ext. 2612.

Council meets less often in August, September

The City Council has canceled its Aug. 4 and Sept. 4 meetings. The council will meet as scheduled on the third Mondays of August and September — Aug. 18 and Sept. 15 — in its chambers at the El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Moers Lane.

For more information, call 510-215-4305.

ALBANY POLICE

Monday, July 21

■ **PROWLER** — A man was arrested on the 1300 block of Solano Avenue shortly after 10 a.m. after a resident reported that the stranger was in a back yard of a home and earlier tried to enter another building.

Wednesday, July 23

■ **VEHICLE BREAK-IN** — A vehicle was broken into on the 900 block of Polk Street, though nothing was taken. The vinyl top of the vehicle was slashed and both doors were unlocked.

■ **STOLEN CHECKS** — A man was arrested on suspicion of trying to pass a stolen check at California Bank and Trust on Solano Avenue.

■ **VEHICLE THEFT** — It was reported at 8:34 p.m. that a red 1990 Pontiac Grand Am was taken from Marin and Kains avenues.

Thursday, July 24

■ **PUBLIC INTOXICATION** — A man was arrested at 11:20 p.m. on suspi-

cion of being intoxicated in public after he walked to the police building and told police his car was stolen. The car was just misplaced because the man was so intoxicated. The man was released after he sobered up.

■ **DUI** — A Pinole man was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence at 1:50 a.m. at Buchanan and Taylor streets.

■ **STOLEN CHECK** — A woman from the 700 block of Evelyn Avenue reported at 10:50 a.m. that a check that was stolen from her mailbox in December had been altered and cashed in another city.

■ **DISTURBANCE** — At 2:15 p.m. a man was seen urinating into some bushes at Carmel Avenue and Solano Avenue. Police were unable to locate him.

■ **DISTURBANCE** — A Richmond man in his 20s was arrested at 6:28 p.m. after twice being asked to leave a bar on the 700 block of San Pablo Avenue. Police arrested the man after it was reported that he was sitting in front of the business shouting at traffic.

Friday, July 25

■ **GRAFFITI** — It was reported at 7:34 a.m. that graffiti was spray-painted on a clubhouse at Terrace Park.

■ **VEHICLE THEFT** — At 10:22 a.m. a white 1994 Acura was reported taken from the 900 block of Masonic Avenue.

■ **VEHICLE BURGLARY** — At 3:47 p.m. a stereo was reported stolen from a vehicle on the 500 block of Pierce Street. The passenger side window had been smashed.

■ **BROKEN WINDOW** — A window from a home on the 1000 block of Neilson Street was knocked out by an unknown object, according to a report made at 7:27 p.m.

Saturday, July 26

■ **VEHICLE THEFT** — It was reported at 11:54 a.m. that a 1988 Honda Accord was taken from the 900 block of Kains Avenue.

■ **LICENSE PLATE THEFT** — A resident from the 500 block of Ramona Avenue reported at 2:03 p.m. that the license plates of their vehicle had been replaced with

other plates.

■ **FLAGS STOLEN** — Two flags were stolen from a home on the block of Washington Avenue. According to a report made at 2:10 p.m., smaller flags on a vehicle had been broken as well.

Sunday, July 27

■ **VEHICLE BURGLARY** — It was reported at 7:50 p.m. that four people jumped out of a vehicle and stole a car stereo on the 600 block of Carmel Avenue.

Monday, July 28

■ **VEHICLE BURGLARY** — Several items were taken from a white 1992 Honda Accord after it was parked on the 900 block of Kains Street, according to a report made at 12:11 p.m.

■ **BREAK-IN** — A home on the block of Masonic Avenue was broken into between 11 and 11:45 a.m. on July 27.

EL CERRITO POLICE

Wednesday, July 16

■ **VEHICLE THEFT** — A blue 1987 Toyota van was taken from the 6500 block of Central Avenue between 10:10 p.m. on July 16 and 9:30 a.m. the next day.

■ **VEHICLE THEFT** — A four-door burgundy 1989 Buick LeSabre was taken from the 900 block of Lexington Avenue between 8 and 9:30 p.m.

■ **VEHICLE RECOVERED** — A 1991 Honda Accord was taken from El Cerrito Mitsubishi between July 16 and July 19. The vehicle was later recovered by the Albany Police Department.

Thursday, July 17

■ **VEHICLE BURGLARY** — A registration card and miscellaneous papers were taken from a 1994 Honda Accord between 7:40 and 10:50 p.m. The right rear passenger window was pried open with a screwdriver.

■ **VEHICLE BURGLARY** — A leather binder containing an owner's manual for a 1985 Cadillac Fleetwood was

taken from a vehicle on the 6500 block of Fairmount Ave. between 5:30 p.m. on July 17 and 8:30 a.m. the next day.

Friday, July 18

■ **VEHICLE RECOVERED** — A silver 1987 Toyota Tercel taken from the 2400 block of Mira Vista Drive between 3 and 11:30 p.m. was later recovered by the Albany police.

■ **VEHICLE THEFT** — A 1990 Toyota Camry stolen from the 500 block of Liberty Avenue was later driven into a fire hydrant and utility pole on the 900 block of Arlington Boulevard at 12:12 a.m. The occupants of the vehicle fled and were not located.

■ **VEHICLE THEFT** — A 1988 Honda Hobbit moped was taken from the 6600 block of Portola Drive between 8 a.m. on July 18 and 10 a.m. the next day.

■ **VEHICLE BURGLARY** — A stereo was taken from a vehicle on the 2000 block of Junction Avenue between 11:20 p.m. on July 18 and 9:30 a.m. the next day.

■ **VEHICLE BURGLARY** — A vehicle on the 1500 block of South 56th

Street was ransacked between 11:40 p.m. on July 18 and 6 a.m. the next day. A window was smashed.

Saturday, July 19

■ **ROBBERY** — A woman was robbed of \$400 after being approached by a man and woman who claimed to be looking for a church on Hill Street between 1 and 2 p.m. The victim agreed to look for the church and was robbed while being taken for a ride in a car. The man said he had a weapon and drove the woman to the Bank of the West where he ordered her to withdraw money from the ATM and then drove away in a blue Toyota four-door car.

■ **VEHICLE RECOVERED** — A stolen 1995 Lexus was found on the 6600 block of Blake Street. It had been stolen out of San Francisco that day.

Sunday, July 20

■ **VEHICLE THEFT** — The driver and two passengers of a Toyota Camry were arrested on suspicion of stealing the vehicle from Richmond on July 19.

Police stopped the vehicle at the Pablo and Sacramento avenues.

Monday, July 21

■ **VEHICLE RECOVERED** — A 1992 Honda Accord after it was parked at Blake and Elm

Wednesday, July 23

■ **VEHICLE RECOVERED** — A 2000 red Honda motorcycle was covered at Bay View and Sacramento avenues at 1:30 a.m. The vehicle had been reported stolen to San Francisco police on July 5.

■ **VEHICLE RECOVERED** — A 1992 Honda Legend was stolen from the Plaza between 5:45 and 6:15 a.m. It was later located at Lincoln and Liberty Street at 9 p.m. and turned to the owner.

■ **VEHICLE RECOVERED** — A 1995 Saturn was located on the block of Hancock Way at 7 p.m. The vehicle was reported stolen to El Cerrito police on July 19.

Police arrest 3 teens in robbery of 11-year-old

By Alan Lopez
STAFF WRITER

EL CERRITO — An 11-year-old boy was robbed of \$43 by three other boys who chased him around El Cerrito Plaza on Monday, July 21, according to police.

The problems started when the victim and two friends, 12 and 13 years old, went to the GameStop store to sell trading cards. Three older boys, who were playing video games in the store, watched while the boy was given money for his cards, according to a police report.

The main suspect, a 15-year-old boy, began running after the boys when they left GameStop, said El Cerrito Police Detective Robert Pierson.

The victims eventually went back to the GameStop store and then rode their bikes to Albertsons where they were again confronted by the three suspects, Pierson said. One of the boys grabbed the 11-year-old's backpack, but the three managed to escape and split up.

The 11-year-old rode to the western side of the plaza, and

ended up in a gated area, next to Macaroni Grill. The suspects followed him there and the older boy told him to empty his pockets or they would ruin his bike, Pierson said.

The boy removed the money from his pockets, after one of the suspects grabbed the handlebars of his bike. The older boys took the money and fled, police say.

Police responded at 3:50 p.m. and took the victim's report,

while an officer looked for suspects at Albany Bowl.

After not finding them, the officer headed eastbound found the boys at Brighton Kains avenues in Albany. Pierson identified the boys, all 11 years old, as the ones who robbed him, Pierson said.

Two of the suspects were released to their parents. The suspected main aggressor in the robbery was transferred to Jail Hall.

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Fairyland mourns loss of lampwick the donkey

AD FACES at Oakland's Children's Fairyland. Lampwick the donkey, who met a child he didn't like, suddenly July 18. As a 6-old named Melissa said, "up at the sky, 'Lamp' had an appointment, so ad to go."

He died as he lived: getting mischief. He and his side-Gideon, have affection- been known as "The Bad ever since they arrived at land in 1994. The name is ute to their uncanny — it must be admitted, ming — knack for finding le. And Lampwick, being pha donkey, was always ngleader.

He was amazingly adept at the padlock off the door feed room," says animal ant Yvonne Backman. "It took him no more than nds. Then he'd stand and gorge himself until he ught. When I'd scold him, ang his head as if he was but you could still see winkle in his eye. He was ng, 'The joke's on you.'"

This bad habits finally up with him July 18, he escaped from his cord ate a spoiled sandwich earty trash can. aging stomach bacterial on soon followed, and in hours he was gone, de- the best efforts of veteri- Rochelle Laprade, who d nonstop for 2½ hours ttle effort to save him. ce Lampwick's death, n has been inconsolable. ent the first two days g uncontrollably, refus- eat, and standing a vigil at the back gate — e used by the truck that i Lampwick's body away. e third day he started eat- in, but only enough to e edge off his hunger. eadly depressed.

Donkeys are social ani- says Backman. "They lo well by themselves at needs a friend." unately, Fairyland has one. He's a 3-year-old Tumbleweed Tommy es near Redding. Unlike ack, who was as black ell, lamp wick, Tumble- ommy is white with a



MARTIN SNAPP
Snapp Shots

few black spots.

He'll cost \$800 — \$750 for the purchase price plus \$50 to ship him down here — money Fairyland just doesn't have in its budget. Fortunately, his owner wants him to go to a good home, and she's decided Fairyland is it. So she's willing to hold on to him for a month or two while Fairyland raises the cash.

The Lake Merritt Breakfast Club — which donated Gideon and Lampwick in the first place — will probably help some. If you'd like to contribute, too, send your donation to the Tumbleweed Tommy Fund, Children's Fairyland, 699 Bellevue Ave., Oakland, CA 94610.

And now, from bad boys to bad girls.

Actually, they're very good girls named Sierra and Lesley Haddock, ages 8 and 11 respectively. They heard about KCBS anchor Al Hart's walk around Oakland's Lake Merritt to raise money to find a cure for Lou Gehrig's Disease, which killed his wife, Sally.

Touched by his story, they sent him the contents of their "Penalty Fund," a glass jar stuffed with coins and bills they paid over the months each time they said bad words.

(They're too young for four-letter words; I'm talking about "Shut up" or "You're stupid.")

Total: \$51.50. Sierra also kicked in another \$3 from her own savings.

"We raised the money by being bad," said Lesley. "But we sent it with love."

If you, too, would like to contribute to the fight against this awful disease, you can send your donation to the ALS Association, 140 Geary St., 4th floor, San Francisco, CA 94108.

Tell 'em Lesley and Sierra sent you.

Reach Martin Snapp at 510-262-2787 or e-mail msnapp@cctimes.com.

Neighbors Albany teens recognized for effort, excellence

By Alan Lopez
STAFF WRITER

ALBANY — When he was 6 years old, Richard Gong organized his friends into a somewhat formal social group not unlike the Boy Scouts, which he would lead on day trips to the mountains. Around the same time, he began selling some of his toys on the neighborhood streets in his native China in what he describes as his first business.

When she was in the eighth grade, Kirsten Haller began volunteering with a special education class at Albany Middle School, helping disabled students play sports.

They're older now, but the two friendly and cheerful Albany High School students haven't slowed down. Richard has started a Web-design business and wants to become governor one day. Kirsten wants to study international relations and work for peace in the Middle East.

For their hard work, the two were awarded the Albany Chamber of Commerce's youth of the year awards for 2002-2003, capping off an active school year for both.

Kirsten received the award in part because of her work with the Albany School District's adapted physical education program, in which she helps disabled students as they acquire motor and social skills and expressive abilities.

She also volunteers in Step Together, an after-school program that serves the social and recreational and artistic needs of disabled teens.

"Kirsten's creative talents, her level-headedness and her compassionate heart add so much to these programs and to the lives of these students," wrote Nancy Henderson, the adapted physical education program director who nominated Kirsten for the award.

Kirsten is also a talented actor

who has participated in the drama department at Albany High School, according to the nomination letter. Kirsten said she's had an interest in drama since she was in a first-grade show and learned every character's part.

She's also interested in international relations, particularly those in the Middle East. She plans to study that at Claremont McKenna College and then learn Hebrew and Arabic while studying in Israel.

"The area is a more extreme representation of society in general," said Kirsten, 17. "You can see problems there more clearly than you can see in a lot of places."

This summer, she helped to form a mock state government with other young women in a civics program in Southern California. For seven years, she's also done many community service projects with the Girl Scouts.

"When I find myself getting a little lazy or unfocused in my work, I see her as an example sometimes for me," said Kirsten's father Stephen Haller, a historian with the National Park Service. "I'm just very proud and it's nice to have her recognized for the good deeds she's done."

In his living room, Richard Gong drank a glass of milk and munched on lychee, a Chinese fruit slightly bigger than a grape. He logged onto his Web site, which lists the mentors, public relations figures and marketing people for his web-design company, as well as a sales pitch.

Actually, "GongBusiness" is still mostly in the planning stages, though Richard has been busy networking and getting advice from business people in the city.

"I started it in the sixth grade but I haven't really worked on it until last month," said Richard, 15. "The time before I was by myself and now I started calling peo-



RICHARD GONG, 15, one of Albany's Youths of the Year, was tapped to create a Web site for the Chamber of Commerce. In addition to entrepreneurial work he maintains a 4.6 grade point average.



KIRSTEN HALLER, 17, is one of Albany Chamber of Commerce's Youths of the Year. Among her many interests and goals is to study international relations and work for peace in the Middle East.

ple and we're actually a business."

Richard's entrepreneurial work is in addition to a 4.6 grade point average, and recent first-place awards for a national essay contest and as a member of a team which participated in the Bay Area Science Bowl science-knowledge competition. The team placed ninth in the nation.

This summer, the Albany Rotary Club sent him to a four-day entrepreneurial business camp. He's spending his summer studying, playing basketball and working on his business.

His current objective, according to his resume: "Getting into college." Harvard is his first

choice.

"He's the kind of kid that won't sit still, he's always working and trying to learn something," said Albany Chamber of Commerce director James Carter, who hired Gong as an intern and to create the chamber's Web site.

Richard wants to "basically learn as much as I can while I'm young and be able to do business when I grow up," he said. After that he plans to run for governor and then retire and become a philanthropist.

Reach Alan Lopez at 510-243-3578 or at alopez1@cctimes.com.

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THE JOURNAL

"... were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."

— Thomas Jefferson

EDITORIAL

Send kids out to play

EACH GENERATION HAS a hope that the next one will do better than it, prosper more, progress more, be more, do more. We want them to be happier and smarter. Parents generally do all they can toward that goal.

They enroll them in elite preschools at birth or before. They seek good neighborhoods with good schools. They fill their kids' lives and schedules with mentally and physically enriching activities. But in many ways we still manage to fail them.

Studies show youths today are less creative, less competent at resolving interpersonal conflict and less active than previous generations. They aren't happy, they can't entertain themselves, and apparently they're not as adventurous and curious. If we don't guide them early, their exploring could lead them to, well, crop circles. Strangely, that may be exactly what they need — almost. What they seem to need is simply more time outside without adult input.

We know, shivers went up the spine of every parent to think of sending their babies even into the back yard unsupervised ... outside in the world, where "here there be dragons." This "outside" isn't like the outside most of us grew up in. Too many kids are harmed these days, and they don't even have to wander to encounter perverts.

But we are stunting the growth of today's youths by structuring their lives to the point that they wouldn't know how to entertain themselves outside even if we did let them out. Our concern for their safety, as well as our own lack of time, has gotten them more attached to television, video games and computers. We shouldn't wonder why this generation is growing obese. Even those youths in organized sports are less active and play less than most present-day adults did at their age. And not every kid gets to be part of a soccer league.

But most parents, whenever they could, have consciously chosen "good" neighborhoods. Those usually include parks. It's time for parents, relatives and guardians to arrange their schedules and coordinate with other adults to take gaggles of kids to the park. Or parents can open up that huge back acreage that made the house they chose such a selling point. Also, organize field trips that encourages kids to explore such natural wonders as our nearby beaches, hiking and biking trails. Apparently, experts say, adults develop their appreciation of nature while grubbing in it during childhood, and today's children aren't gaining much of an appreciation.

Take a book, because all you have to do is be there. What they need is to play on their own, interact with each other and their environment and see what comes up. Even minor skirmishes should garner no more than a glance from adult supervisors — although today's kids, having learned conflict resolution skills from movies and video games, may require a pat-down before play begins.

Obviously that is not all that young people need, but it is becoming increasingly clear to teachers, therapists and other professionals that successful, happy adults got to be outside, running, playing and exploring, using their brain and all their senses, while they were kids. Let's find a way to send our kids out to play more. And, let's let them make up the games once they get there.

JEFF HANSEN • HILLS NEWSPAPERS

Summer Camps foster independence and innovation

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We need to be heard

This is regarding the article, "School plans spur discord" (Journal, July 25).

Concerning the relocation of El Cerrito High School, the cost of thousands of square yards of landfill for building new athletic fields is estimated to exceed the cost of portable classrooms.

We parents do not want to risk children's lives in unsafe, condemned buildings during construction. Teachers who jeer at voters at public meetings do not want to leave their familiar classrooms until the new buildings are ready. Safety, cost and successful utilization of portables at other schools should override these fears.

All other school construction has preserved existing neighborhoods. The precedent of building a new facility on a different site, to improve property values for committee members, to the detriment of other homeowners, can affect anyone who lives close to any school in this district.

Neighbors should be included in planning and should be allowed to speak at meetings.

Geline Covey
El Cerrito

Leave Iraq now!

I have a solution for our difficult situation in Iraq which is so simple it will probably be overlooked by our military leaders.

Since the Iraqi people don't seem to recognize that we came as benefactors and they want us to go home, let's do just that. Pack up all our soldiers and bring them home — the sooner the better.

Now that we've released the Iraqis from the rule of one of the cruelest dictators in the world, just pack up and leave. Let the Iraqis fight it out among their several factions.

This would immediately solve many problems. It would stop the killing of our soldiers, who have finished the job for which they went to Iraq, it would save us hundreds of thousands of dollars spent on maintaining a military presence there, and it would leave the Iraqis to work out their own solutions — with no one else to blame except themselves if their country continues to be torn apart.

And if, by some chance, it stabilizes, all the better for everybody.

They have a council of Iraqi (supposed) leaders set up. Let them deal with their problems. Let's do it now!

Morris Cleland
El Cerrito

A better scenario

People keep asking what will happen if the recall election comes to pass.

It's simple, we will get a new governor who, hopefully, will use the line-item veto on any spending that exceeds the cost of living index. Also, he could veto any budget that does not roll back the excessive spending of the past three years.

Sure, there are things that should be funded but if balanced by reducing excessive spending on salary increases and benefits for members of the Legislature, other government workers and for payola to election contributors, we would still have a surplus this year.

John Muth
El Cerrito

Take bids for garbage pickup

Our City Council is negotiating a new garbage contract which will call for curb-side service instead of backyard service.

In July, the council directed city staff to negotiate a new contract with Waste Management, our current refuse company. The current monthly rate is \$23.42 for backyard service. Our new monthly rate, as close as we can calculate, would be \$22.06 for front yard service — not a great bargain considering we have to bring the can to the curb.

A number of Bay Area cities have gone out to bid; all experienced expanded services at lower rates. Santa Rosa, for example, was previously served by a subsidiary of Waste Management, which bid \$8.19 for one 32-gallon can (front yard service and free service to public schools). They lost the contract, which was awarded to a bid of \$7.49 that included refuse service, green waste service, recycling and even street sweeping for that city.

Competitive bidding helps explain the huge difference between Waste Management's Albany rate and the bid in Santa Rosa.

Front yard service is a huge savings for a refuse company, as one man can pick up trash faster than two men for backyard service. The trash company would save, conservatively, 30 percent with front yard service. So why is Waste Management offering us a decrease of only about 8.3 percent?

Front yard service is not only an inconvenience to each household, it is also unsightly to have rows of garbage cans cluttering Albany streets and sidewalks.

A number of years ago, the current contract came up for renewal and the City Council, on a split vote, decided not to put it out for bid. That is why Albany pays one of the highest rates in the area, the city does not get as much of a franchise fee, and we do not get extra services that many other cities receive.

If the council puts the contract out for bids, we could get better rates, backyard service and free additional benefits. Other cities have these; why can't we?

It is imperative that we consider other companies' offers, as the potential savings could be significant.

Ask our council members to serve the community and save wherever and whenever possible. This is a wide-open opportunity to cut costs and improve services.

Les Pickles
Albany

Beware of the recall

The popularity of the Gray Davis recall is due, in large measure, to the California media's self-censorship.

On June 26, only the Wall Street Journal reported California was not the only

Western state to ask the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to allow gate pricey long-term electricity contracts in a 13-state rigged market.

On May 18, 2002, only the Los Angeles Times reported that FERC economist Steven Stoft predicted in 1998 (before Davis became governor) the abuses that would befall California's newly deregulated energy market. Stoft's warning went unheeded.

On July 1, only the New York Times reported the Republican-controlled Texas Legislature, in an unprecedented move, called for a special session solely aimed at redrawing U.S. congressional districts to eliminate Democratic seats. The previous month, Colorado state Republicans accomplished the same objective. Democrats have threatened retaliation.

This recall is part of a Republican Party plan to use state government to take permanent control of the House Representatives.

In September 1997, House Majority Leader Tom DeLay, a Texas Republican, was quoted in the Washington Post: "Judges need to be intimidated." If they don't behave, he said, "we're going to after them in a big way."

If you want an ultra right-winger (such as DeLay in permanent control, vote yes.

Stuart Place
Berkeley

Deficit untruths

California Republicans claim they're trying to recall Gray Davis because he lied about the size of the state deficit. President Bush lied about the size of the federal deficit. Do you think this means they are going to lead a recall against President Bush?

Anne St...
Berkeley

State legislation is in order

California law requires that all real animal injuries be reported to the State Veterinary Medical Board within hours.

I just received copies of the report submitted since the law went into effect on Jan. 1, 2000: a grand total of two animals.

Injuries to rodeo animals are commonplace. The Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA) documented a total of 63 injuries at 124 of their events in 2000/2001. A Salinas Rodeo veterinarian recently stated that, on average, two to three animals are injured each year.

Thus, with some 250-300 rodeos taking place in California every year, it's reasonable to expect 150-200 injuries to animals. Why the huge discrepancy? Either the "on call" veterinarian option is not working or there's a major cover-up on and animals are suffering needlessly.

All this demonstrates the crying need for an on-site veterinarian at all rodeos to care for the animals. To their credit, the PRCA does require on-site veterinarians.

Rodeo always have ambulances and paramedics present to treat injured boys, and rightly so. Don't the unwounded four-legged participants deserve the same consideration?

State legislation is in order.

Mills is the coordinator of Action Animals.

NO EXIT

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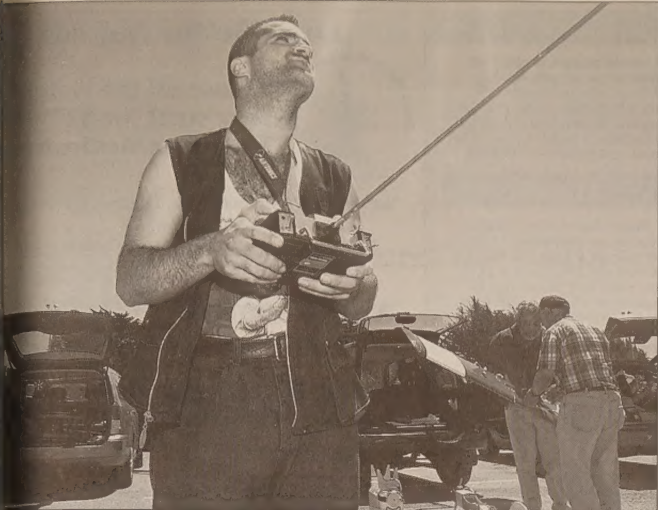
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Cities

El Cerrito: City offices, 10890 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 510-215-4300. E-mail: citycouncil@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us

Albany: City offices, 1000 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-528-5710.

Kensington: Fire Protection District 217 Arlington Blvd. 510-527-8395



ers on track

LARGE OPEN spaces Golden Gate Fields make it easy to fly remote-plane flying. Ken Moody of Fremont is off his plane after flying it on July 27. Above, Gordon of Oakland keeps a close eye on his plane as he flies it with a remote. They fly their model-plane pilots weekly to fly their planes.



TUE NAM TONG/STAFF

ome keys to staying mentally fit

Keep seeing and hearing the term "mental fitness" days, especially in connection with older adults. Is it exactly? Why is it important, and should I be concerned about it? Striving to attain mental fitness has to be the most important objective for anyone, especially older adults. Mental fitness gives us heightened awareness and observational skills, better communication and concentration, helps us meet challenges of existing as well as to solve problems. In general, it helps us to charge of our own lives. Though most everyone has level of mental fitness in charge of a family and upation, after retirement we may have dropped the need for such right-thinking is no longer. Just as physical fitness is if we don't have regular exercise, mental is lost if we are not diligent mental exercise. Mentally, to develop or improve mental fitness we must at a level that is not too it. (After all, nobody physical fitness program running a marathon.) Every observation is a good way to begin a program for the improvement of mental fitness. Every observation simply awareness using all five



CONNIE LYNCH
Don't Lose Your Mind

senses. For example, choose a common object that you often use, such as a paper clip. Examine it closely using all senses — touch it, look at it, listen to it, smell and even taste it (making sure it's clean, of course!). Some of your observations might be: silver, smooth, makes a noise when dropped on the table, odorless and tasteless. Remember, however, that telling what it is used for is not a part of this exercise. How many observations can you make? Try for at least 15. Also try this exercise with small edible things such as a pretzel stick, or a glass of sparkling water. If you are persistent with this technique it will soon become a habit. You will be much more aware of your surroundings, noticing details of which you have never before been aware. This will improve your confidence and concentration. This result cannot be accomplished without effort. Mental exercise is not easy, but it is so rewarding if you are willing to work at it!

Of course, there is much more to mental fitness than improving your observational skills. Great benefits also arise from rigorous thinking and from learning something you never before knew. Learning a new language or hobby can be very beneficial. Recent research also indicates that crossword puzzles can help ward off or perhaps even prevent Alzheimer's disease. My advice to you and to anybody else is to become involved in mental activities. Take care that the level of difficulty isn't too high or you may get discouraged. Start at an easy pace and work up. Try a number of different puzzles — crosswords, logic problems, cryptograms, acrostics, and any others that interest you. There are many puzzle books available these days. Many of them offer a large variety of all kinds of puzzles. Find the types that you enjoy the most and see how far you can go with them.

E-mail inquiries for Kensington resident Connie Lynch to conniemw@aol.com or call 510-466-5833. Lynch, Ph.D., is the founder of Mind Works, a mental fitness program designed for older adults and is the author of "Don't Lose Your Mind, Four Components of Superior Mental Fitness" (Bridge Learning Systems, 2000).

Options abound for young adult readers

Quote of the week:
"Space isn't remote at all. It's only an hour's drive away if your car could go straight upwards."
—Sir Fred Hoyle, 1919-2001

THE FIRST NIGHT my daughter's Japanese college friend was at our house, she asked me for some book recommendations. She had decided to buy lots of English-language books, because they are so expensive in Japan — and she wanted to know if I could suggest some young adult titles. Young adult books, she explained, are perfect for her level of English, are interesting and usually are not too long. I was, of course, happy to oblige and found myself listing title after title, each one leading to another idea. I was surprised to realize how many young adult novels I've read over the almost five years I've been a young adult librarian and it reminded me of my first BAYAL (Bay Area Young Adult Librarians) meeting, where — apropos nothing — I stood up and presented a monologue on the wonderful characteristics of the young adult novel. I remember the silence when I stopped talking — I still wonder what everyone was thinking — before they proceeded to the next agenda item. Since it also made me think again about the mystery of what exactly a young adult novel is, I decided to do a little research on the Internet. The first article I found was written by Paul Many and called "Writing for Young Adult



JULIE WINKELSTEIN
At the Library

Audiences: Tips and Hints." In defining young adult, Mr. Many says: "A behavioral definition of a YA novel would be any novel that people in this age range read. This could include books that range from "Hatchet" by Gary Paulsen to "The Stranger" by Albert Camus." Another site, write4kids.com, has a piece by Laura Backes called "The Difference Between Middle Grade & Young Adult." Her main concept revolves around the idea of "internal change," where a protagonist struggles with a particular issue, as he or she also is trying to find a place in the world. I agree with both of these writers. Even though we have a genre just for them, teenagers actually read as wide a range of literature as adults. And yes, many of them deal with life problems — alcoholism, eating disorders, drug abuse, abandonment, self-mutilation — it's all there. In fact, the teenage world could look pretty bleak if you only looked at the literature representing it. Fortunately, though, many of these are excellent books, no matter whom the intended audience, and are worthy of being in any library collection. I have

recommended them to adults and I know one of our regular library patrons recently told me how much she enjoyed Iain Lawrence's "Ghost Boy," a book that was already one of my favorites. And a 13-year-old introduced me to one of my very favorite books of any genre, "Doomsday Book" by Connie Willis. Other young adult books I particularly like are: "Keeping the Moon," "Someone Like You" and "This Lullaby," all by Sarah Dessen; "Petey" by Ben Mikaelson; "Downsiders" by Neal Shusterman; "Whirligig" by Paul Fleischman; "Holes" by Louis Sachar; "Catherine, Called Birdy" by Karen Cushman; "Summer Hawk" by Deborah Savage; and "Invisible Enemies: Stories of Infection" by Jeanette Farrell. I also suggest taking a look in the young adult section at your local library and finding some of your own. You won't be disappointed.

READER REVIEW: Colette reviewed today's book, "The Universe," edited by Byron Preiss and Andrew Fraknoi. Colette says this book is "a compilation of scientific essays about astronomy paired with science fiction stories about the same thing." The essays are "not too scientific," and she recommends the book because "it's educational in an extremely entertaining way."

Reach librarian Julie Winkelstein at jwinkelstein@acclib.org or at the Albany Library.

LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

Fourth-degree black belt Gordon Teekell will give a presentation on how the principles of Aikido can be applied to everyday life and work, at the El Cerrito Library, Tuesday, Aug. 19, at 7 p.m. The martial art was conceived as a way to peacefully reconcile conflict without having to resort to violence. The aim of the aikidoist is to be in conscious control of both mind and body and to maintain a calm presence. The El Cerrito Library is at 6510 Stockton Ave. For information, call 510-526-7512.

Travel writer Carole Terwilliger Meyers, author of the book considered by many to be the definitive travel guide to the region, "Weekend Adventures in Northern California," will appear at the El Cerrito Library on Tuesday, Aug. 5, at 7 p.m. to talk about the book, which has been completely revised for its seventh edition. Meyers also is author of "FamilyFun Vacation Guide," "San Francisco Family Fun," and "Miles of Smiles: 101 Great Car Games & Activities."

Albany children are invited to two upcoming storytelling programs at the Albany Library. The first is "Tales and Trails" with Bob Kanegis and Liz Mangual (and their accordion), Saturday, Aug. 2, at 11 a.m. The second is storyteller

Kirk Waller, Tuesday, Aug. 12, at 7 p.m. Both programs are free. The summer reading game continues through August 16.

The Albany Library has poetry events the second Wednesday and Saturday and the first Thursday of the month, in the Edith Stone Room. On Thursday, Aug. 7, Berkeley resident Melody Lacina will be the featured poet during an open mike event from 7 to 9 p.m. Lacina's poems have appeared in journals and anthologies. Her first book is "Private Hunger."

A drop-in poetry-writing workshop, led by Alison Seevak will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 13. A poetry writing workshop for children in grades four through eight, will be held Saturday, Aug. 9, from 2 to 4 p.m. The three events are free and ongoing. Light refreshments will be served. Also at The Albany Library is a variety of summer programs for children and adults. They include a chess workshop every Tuesday from 6 to 8 p.m. and "Tell me a story" book readings by teens for children every day except Sunday and Friday, from 2 to 4 p.m. The library is at 1247 Marin Ave. For information, call 510-526-3720 ext. 20.

Young readers can partici-

pate in a new Contra Costa County Library activity, "Just for Teens 2003: It's possible at your library" from Sept. 15 to Oct. 25, and earn prizes for reading. The second annual teen reading program is for students in grades six through 12. Students can count reading for school and for recreation. In El Cerrito, participants can pick up their reading record on or after Sept. 15 at the El Cerrito Library, 6510 Stockton Avenue, or download it at www.ccclib.org. For information, call 510-526-7512 or go to www.ccclib.org.

The Kensington Library hosts Family Storytimes for all ages at 10:30 a.m. Saturdays and 7 p.m. Tuesday except when special programs are scheduled. The library will hold its wrap-up party and puppet show for the end of the Summer Reading Program at 7 p.m. Aug. 26. The Kensington Library is at 61 Arlington Ave., Kensington. Phone: 510-524-3043.

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olunteer patrol gears up for National Night Out

By Alan Lopez
STAFF WRITER
EL CERRITO — Wearing blue t-shirt jackets, and carrying police scanner and cell phones, Ky Katsumoto and Jim Ohlone rode on bicycles at North BART station, prepping potential wrongdoers in the Ohlone Greenway. They're not police; just members of the El Cerrito Crime Prevention Committee, who want to make their city safer. And their way of patrolling the Ohlone Greenway is intended to make it less susceptible to burglaries and assaults. "I trust their maturity and skills," said El Cerrito Detective Robert Pierson. Nothing is police-worthy,

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Block parties will be held throughout El Cerrito in celebration of National Night Out Tuesday, Aug. 5. For more information about the events or the El Cerrito Crime Prevention Committee, call 510-215-4144 ext. 30.

they can alert us by cell phone and if it's urgent they have a radio which connects to dispatch." The crime prevention committee is an active group that produces many free programs on topics including identity theft, fraud prevention and gun-safety, home-security checks, neighborhood watch programs and the upcoming National Night Out, a

night of city block parties and barbecues intended to get neighbors to break the ice and look out for each other. Katsumoto said the Ohlone

Greenway patrol was suggested by Pierson because trail users can be easy targets for criminals, especially at night. "It's become sort of a fester-

ing place for criminals, especially muggings and things like that — muggings and assaults," he said. See NIGHT OUT, Page A8

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Calendar

Children

■ Stage Door Conservatory's "Kids On Stage" program presents a free musical, "Blame it on the Wolf" by Douglas Love at 7:30 p.m. Aug. 8, Epworth United Methodist Church, 1953 Hopkins Street in North Berkeley. Favorite fairytale characters put the Wolf on trial. Free admission. For information, call 510-527-5939 or StageDoorCamp@aol.com.

Literary events

■ Develop and polish communication skills. Join **Berkeley-Emeryville Toastmasters Club** Tuesdays 12:10 to 1 p.m. at 700 Heinz Ave. Call Richard at 510-843-7313 or Chris at 510-601-8696 for information.

Miscellany

■ "From the Seed," an art opening and

event, takes place at 7 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 9, followed by a reception and other performances at Bohema, 1527 Shattuck Ave. The show features new works by visual artists Laura Anderson and Emily DiFonzo, a Kimono fashion show from the collection of Shirley Nachmann, a one woman show about the hairdresser/client relationship by Terri Valera and music by Christian Arizmendi. For d'oeuvres and wine served until 9 p.m. For information, call 510-540-9876 or Bohema@pacbell.net.

Music

■ Jazzschool, 2087 Addison Street, presents the following performances:
 Mitch Marcus Quintet, 8 p.m. Aug. 1. Admission: \$10;
 Jazz vocalist **Gail Dobson** 8 p.m. Aug. 2, celebrating the release of her new CD "Parallel Reflections." Admission: \$12-18;

Trumpeter **Christy Dana** and her Quartet, 4:30 p.m. Aug. 3. Admission \$10-15;

For reservations or more information about Jazzschool performances, call 510-845-5373 or visit the Web site at www.jazzschool.com.

■ **Isabelle Metwalli**, soprano and **Trevor Stephenson**, harpsichord will perform Italian arts songs from the 17th and 18th century and works by JS. Bach at 8 p.m. Friday Aug. 1, at the Chamber Arts House, 2924 Ashby Ave., Berkeley. Suggested donation \$10.

■ La Pena Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., presents **Son de Madera**, Mexico's legendary jarocho group, at 8 p.m. Aug. 2. For information, call 510-849-2568 or visit the Web site at www.lapena.org.

Support

■ A social program for people with Alzheimer's is held from noon to 3 p.m. Mondays in the fireside room at St. John's Presbyterian Center, 2727 College Ave., Berkeley. Lots of music and fun activities, small fee. For information, call 510-581-3933 or 510-444-02243.

Theater

■ Shotgun Players present "Mother Courage and Her Children," a play by Bertolt Brecht at 4 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays Aug. 2 through Sept. 14, at John Hinkel Park, Southampton Avenue, off the Arlington in North Berkeley. Opening night BBQ fund-raiser is \$20; all other performances are free. For information, call 510-704-8210 or visit the Web site at www.shotgunplayers.org.

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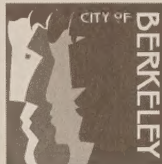
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COMMUNITY BULLETIN

The City of Berkeley has established a Code Enforcement Unit (CEU) within the City's Office of Neighborhood Services. The Code Enforcement Unit is comprised of four full-time officers dedicated to addressing quality of life issues affecting the Berkeley community. The CEU is also designed to provide broad enforcement and better coordination between City departments.

The CEU officers will address community concerns such as land use issues, inoperable vehicles parked on City streets, improper storage of refuse or excessive litter, placement of new racks, public right-of-way accessibility, and violations of smoking laws and ordinances, among many areas. Code Enforcement Unit officers will also provide referrals for potential housing, fire code and environmental and health codes to enforcement staff within various City Departments, supporting both broad and targeted code enforcement efforts.

For more information or to contact the Code Enforcement Unit, please call the City Center Office at 981-CITY (2489) or visit www.CityOfBerkeley.info.

HILLS NEWSPAPERS REAL ESTATE & HOME

Real Estate & Home
 Friday, September 12, 2003
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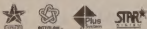
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HEY CALL IT the New LITA of Contra Costa, Pat Berndt says, because the local chapter of the Love Is the Answer had almost inactive for a number of years.

now, she says, with an enthusiastic executive director, Victoria Ryan, LITA is running, with volunteers to make the lives of residents in convalescent homes a little happier with visits and caring.

Berndt, of El Cerrito, is secretary of the group, and has been with it since it was first brought to El Cerrito by Iris Suhl many years ago. I wrote about LITA in Suhl at that time, and



CLARA-RAE GENSER
Community Folk

was happy to be able to introduce the organization to the area. Iris had moved from Marin to El Cerrito simply to start a LITA chapter here.

She was active in many ways, including being one of those who started the Souper Center in Richmond for homeless and/or hungry people.

Berndt is excited about Victoria Ryan and her leadership.

Ryan, she says, has been an entertainer, and often sings and plays the guitar at hospitals and fund-raising events. Ryan contributed several pieces of lovely Mata Ortiz Pottery to the organization's July 4 raffle.

It was at the July 4 celebration in El Cerrito that I noticed the LITA table, and stopped to talk with the volunteers there, delighted to see it alive and vital once more. The enthusiasm is high, and membership has grown. The geographic reach of the group also has extended; there is great activity in Orinda, and outreach to Moraga and Lafayette.

Thanks to Ryan, LITA now offers Jazz by LITA every Tuesday at Creekside

Care Center in San Pablo.

Berndt, who with her husband, Ken, is very active in El Cerrito, says, "I belong to everything, and always end up being president." She's gone door-to-door for the American Cancer Society, has been its area chairwoman and on the board for 19 years. She was also president of the Thumbelina chapter of the Children's Home Society.

Born in Berkeley, Pat and Ken moved to the Richmond Annex in 1958, and then to El Cerrito. Kenneth Berndt was city councilman and mayor, among other things. Pat took part in everything, became president of the Jaycettes when Ken belonged to the Junior Chamber, and was active in the Contra Costa Civic

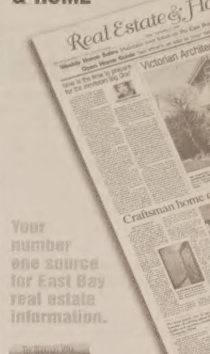
Theatre, Rotary, and is currently secretary of the Chamber of Commerce. She has been with LITA since the beginning, and, as secretary, gives it a great deal of her time.

Pat and Ken have three grown children — Michael, Kevin and Stacey — and seven grandchildren.

LITA can be reached at 510-527-2055 or by e-mail at victoriaryan1@earthlink.net.

Do you know people, places or groups in El Cerrito, Albany or Kensington that would make good subjects for this column? If so, please write me at 555 Pierce St., No. 443, Albany, CA 94706 or call 510-525-4585. My e-mail is crgenser@aol.com.

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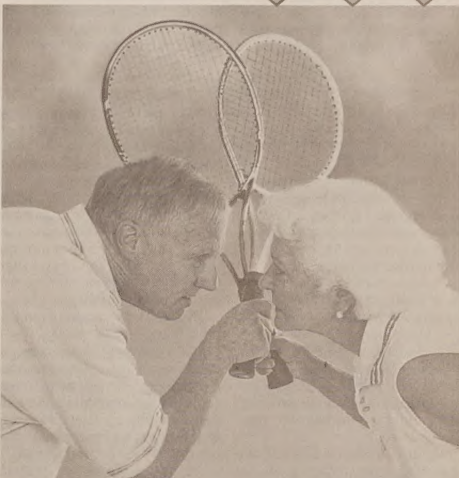
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Oversight panel says it's under-informed

By Kara Shire
STAFF WRITER

Volunteers charged with overseeing \$450 million in West Contra Costa school bond funds say they do not know for sure that the money is being spent properly.

While most agreed that mismanagement of the bond funds was unlikely, they said they were not given the financial data needed to adequately assess the massive school renovation program.

"I think we're doing a good job, but we're not going to say to this community, 'Yes, everything is up to par,' when we haven't seen an audit," said Barbara Vigil, San Pablo's vice mayor and member of the 24-member Measure M and D Bond Oversight Committee.

"That's all we're asking for, information that's correct and audited."

The first audit of the district's \$450 million voter-backed bond program is expected in November, long after the Sept. 16 special election for a fourth school construction bond.

If approved by voters, the \$450 million Measure C bond would push the district's total bond program to \$900 million.

Citizens' oversight committees often are described during campaigns as a guarantee that voters' money will be spent as promised.

Dick King, president of a

Richmond engineering firm and chair of the bond oversight committee, said the advisory board struggled to get detailed financial data and is only now making headway.

"We've had difficulty getting the type of financial data that we wanted, which would give us a comparison of the budget versus the actual expenditure by task, so we could make an appropriate evaluation," King said.

"So we've been struggling with that for about a year, and we're starting to get some of the information."

Others said the financial summaries they received, even if handed to them the same night of their meetings, are sufficient.

"I would say without a doubt, yes," said David Duer, a community representative who works at a UC Berkeley library.

Community oversight is required under Proposition 39, the initiative approved by voters in November 2000 to allow a majority vote to approve bonds while adding accountability standards.

Measure M, approved by voters in that same 2000 election, is not a Prop. 39 bond and is not subject to the stricter standards.

Measure D, approved by voters in 2002, is a Prop. 39 bond measure with added legal obligations, such as community over-

sight and annual financial and performance audits.

Measure C will require two-thirds voter approval and will not be a Prop. 39 measure. Though community oversight is not required, a bond committee is proposed in the ballot language.

Mary Perry, deputy director of the Palo Alto-based think-tank EdSource, said the value of bond oversight committees depends on a great deal on the value of participation by school districts.

"The variables are how sincere is the district in getting and using the information, how good they are at giving (the oversight committee) the information, and how committed the committee members are," Perry said.

Assessments of the West Contra Costa school district's cooperation with its oversight committee were mixed.

Some members declined to comment on the committee's ability to oversee the use of bond dollars, others said they rarely attended meetings and did not know details of bond spending, many more did not return phone calls.

Some, like Richmond City Councilman and mortgage banker Gary Bell, said the school district is doing its job in providing the committee the data it needs.

"I think they're making the best effort they can to get the in-

formation to us," Bell said. "We're spending 450 million bucks, so that's a hard task to do, but I think they're doing a good job."

Superintendent Gloria Johnston said the district is working hard to give committee members the information they need in a format they understand.

"When you're presenting information to people who typically are not experts in the construction field and aren't financial experts, you have to work with them to understand how best to provide the information to them," Johnston said.

"And I think we're getting there. We will get there."

Counselors

FROM PAGE A1

"I think the teachers have taken a sacrifice to do this, and I think that needs to be noticed. It's still not OK that teachers are not getting the things they deserve."

Indeed, for teachers, the agreement is a bit of a mixed bag.

They gave up a combined \$2.2 million in pay raises to keep primary grade classes at 20 students and counselors in the secondary schools — but those concessions are temporary.

Counselors are promised for just one year and small class size for two. If budget problems continue, and if a parcel tax isn't voted on soon, such programs could face elimination once again.

Jeff Cloutier, executive director of the teachers union, said teachers did what they knew was right.

"I think, given the universe as it exists, we did what is right for the kids, and that's what our members stand for," Cloutier said. "It is our belief that the parents and community members are not going to let this happen again."

Reach Kara Shire at 510-262-2798 or kshire@cctimes.com.

Council

FROM PAGE A1

The federally funded "COPS in Schools" grant paid for half the cost of the school district resource officer for the last three years. The city and school district split the other half.

"The police department and the district believe that the ... program has been effective in serving the local high-school student population," wrote Police Chief Greg Bone, in a report to the City Council. "The district has contacted the city expressing interest in continuing the program for the next school year."

The city and district will now each pay half of the full cost of the position — \$98,992 — which includes salary and benefits and other operational costs.

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Lynch

FROM PAGE A1

In her Mind Works classes, Lynch puts her students through a strenuous regimen of mental calisthenics, including analogies, cryptograms and logic puzzles — the harder the better.

Which leads to the first of her four mental fitness tips: Make it tough on yourself.

"Find something to do that really taxes your mind," she says. "Otherwise, you start to lose brain cells. Mental exercise is just as difficult as physical exercise, especially if you haven't done much lately."

And she practices what she preaches. Every morning, she begins the day by doing the New York Times crossword puzzle — in ink!

Tip No. 2: Regain the curiosity you had when you were a little kid.

"My favorite example is a friend of mine I saw staring at my dogwood tree one day. I said, 'Anything wrong with my tree?' And she said, 'No, I was just counting the little tiny flowers in the middle of each blossom to see if all the blossoms have the same number.' She counted every one until she found that they all had an even number, but not the same number."

Tip No. 3: Pay attention to details, using all five senses.

"One exercise I give my class is to take a common object, such as a paper clip, and ask them to describe 25 different things about it. Actually, there are a lot more than 25 things you could say about a paper clip, if you try hard enough."

Tip No. 4: Keep trying. Then try some more.

"You should see my students," says Lynch. "They're willing to do anything. I can hand them any problem, and they'll give it their best shot."

Last month, she assigned a problem that was so hard, nobody could solve it. Unfazed, they told her, "Don't tell us the answer! Assign it to us for another week!"

The week went by, but they still hadn't come up with the answer. So they said, "Let us work it out over the summer. We'll tell you the answer in the fall."

But one student couldn't wait that long. One night last week Lynch got a late-hour phone call. "I solved it! I solved it!" said the student, bubbling with excitement.

Not that Lynch minded the late hour. "I was more excited than he was. I'm so proud of them all for giving all they've got. Not all of them will get it right, but it won't be for lack of trying."

Reach Martin Snapp at 510-262-2787 or e-mail msnapp@cctimes.com.

Night Out

FROM PAGE A1

"We have only had a few patrols so far. We hope to increase this and get a bit more organized, but it's still in its infancy."

With about 15 to 20 people, the committee started with a federal grant in the 1970s, though over the years the grant money dried up and people moved away or lost interest, Katsumoto said.

Interest continues, however, and the group now has nine members, including Katsumoto, who was a research scientist at Chevron; Montgomery, a semiconductor equipment consultant; and Mike Chamberlain, a state prosecutor who focuses on murder and assault cases involving DNA.

Everyone contributes their talents to the group, said Katsumoto, who has been with the

group 10 years.

"You help people and you also reduce the crime that we're seeing more and more of every day," said Montgomery, who was a volunteer reserve police officer in the early 1970s.

The focus of the group now is National Night Out, which will be held Tuesday. Twenty-five groups will participate in block parties throughout the city.

Katsumoto said neighbors getting to know each other is an important and effective way to fight crime and pointed to his own experiences as proof.

A couple of years ago, there was a rash of mailbox thefts in his neighborhood and a burglar

was caught after a neighbor told him that the man was searching a mailbox at a home nearby. Katsumoto called police and a few minutes later the burglar was caught.

Police can't be everywhere at once, he said, and neighbors are often the first line of defense.

"I think that's the way it should work and it does work," he said.

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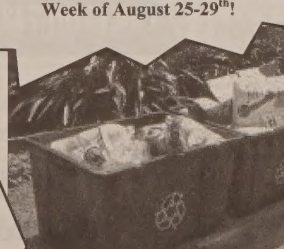
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Bleckinger

FROM PAGE A1

Her interest in Schubert ultimately led her back to her first love: the spirituals of her youth.

"He put so much of his heart into each song," she says. "I heard my voice singing about these emotions in another language, and I started wondering, 'What about my own culture?'"

She spent the next few years collecting spirituals, studying their history, and singing them. "I learned that in African culture, there was a song for every occasion. So when our people 'arrived' in America — and we all know how they 'arrived' — there was something already in place in their culture that helped them to survive. I can't tell you how it made me feel to find that out. It showed me God is good, after all."

In 1972 she married tennis pro Chuck Bleckinger. The following year they opened the tennis shop. Since then, they have worked hard to establish tennis programs for inner city youth.

A few years ago she met her idol, Leontyne Price, at a concert in San Francisco, and had a chance to tell the great diva what an inspiration she'd been. Only then did she discover that Price used to live in El Cerrito and had passed by the tennis shop many times on her morning walks.

"If only I'd known at the time!" says Bleckinger. "Unfortunately, she doesn't live here any more. I think she's in New York or Chicago."

Bleckinger performs locally with the Albany Community Choir, at Arlington Community Church in Kensington, and at the Trinity Chamber Concert Series in Berkeley. On the fourth Sunday of every month she is the soloist at Unity Church in Richmond.

But this Monday she will be in Cambridge, England. Her solo concert is a featured event at the Second International Symposium and Festival on Composition in Africa and The Diaspora at Churchill College, part of Cambridge University.

"I hear those old British universities are made of cold bricks and mortar," she says. "But we're really going to warm those bricks up!"

Reach Martin Snapp at 510-262-2787 or e-mail msnapp@cctimes.com.

Trees

FROM PAGE A1

El Cerrito spends \$250,000 annually on tree maintenance and, said public works manager Dan Clark, it costs \$600,000 a year to maintain a level that guarantees properly trimmed plants from clutter and weighing in to a city-maintenance landscape management.

"Basically, they're blowing," he says. "The grasses and grasses Marcia Vallier, who is a member of the El Cerrito Landscaping Report. 'The kinds of work, but they're just mowing.'"

The report says trees are diseased and aged from lack of watering, mowing and trimming. The plan did street trees.

The council will present about the plan, which would trim trees in the city, at a meeting. In September, the city's Recreation Commission will make a recommendation on the range of a plan, if the council to adopt one.

Park and recreation commissioners agreed that more money for tree maintenance and development of the urban will be difficult under increasingly tight city budgets.

"It's been under more than 10 years, to do that (increase) is not a political issue," said. "Currently, it seems more interested theater and city hall, there's money for the question, of course."

Former park and commission chairman said it would be difficult to change people would rather money go to other as street repair or police.

El Cerrito Mayor's man said he'll wait.

"I need to see how it weighs it with other," Friedman said. "But thing that makes El Cerrito a great place to live, trees and parks."

Reach Alan Lopez at 3578 or alopez1@cctimes.com.

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Friday, August 1, 2003

Section B

It's going, get it finished

crastination marks
part of most
home remodeling projects

Sometimes the prospect of remodeling your home can be daunting. The thought of having your home torn up and workmen track mud out — not to mention without a kitchen or bathroom for several months — is enough to make you think that your procrastination is actually a comfort — and often the first stage of the remodeling process. Most people are busy with their lives and work. You know how it is — you know the kitchen is important, but it might not necessarily be urgent.

Take a look at some of the ways that can slow a remodel from getting off the ground, and getting done:
1. **Be very deliberately.** Try to do all the bases before starting any remodeling. Planning is important because it helps you avoid extra cost and added expense. It can help you avoid getting started past the first few phone calls and planning sessions can often lead to the inspiration needed to move forward.

2. **Be thorough.** With that in mind, however, a good idea to

fully plan your project before proceeding. Take the time to really think about your daily living patterns, and exactly what the remodel will need to address. Make a list of things that work in the space, and those that don't. If you've hired an architect and/or general contractor, be sure to communicate all of these needs to them before any design work begins.

Consider hiring a general contractor. A good contractor will not only be able to give you a realistic timetable that is based on practical experience. It's also his/her responsibility to make sure the job gets done. When you have to make that phone call yourself or take the time to find and hire the next subcontractor and you don't get to it, understand that the project may have to stop temporarily.

Set yourself up for less stress. This can really make a difference. For example, consider installing a temporary kitchen or laundry room that will serve you throughout the process and allow you to minimize the feeling of disruption. A temporary sink and cooktop in another room in the house will do the trick. Make decisions in a timely fashion. When the contractor alerts you to specific decisions that must be made and by when, be sure to follow through to keep the process moving forward. If there is no contractor, be sure to look



PAUL WINANS
From the Ground Up

ahead at the project schedule you've devised so you know well ahead of time what decisions you'll need to be ready to make, and make them.

Stick with your original plan. Changing your mind on certain aspects of the project once underway can add considerable time to the project.

Changing something can cause a ripple effect down the line, delaying other aspects later. In most cases the subcontractors have planned a window into which they can complete your project. Changes can disrupt this considerably.

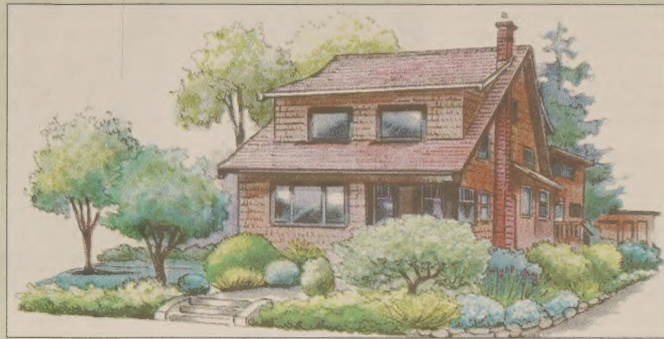
Hang in there. About two-thirds of the way through the project, you'll feel like it's never going to end. This is a crucial point in the project. Don't give up. This can be especially difficult if you're managing the project yourself.

Just a little more legwork and lots of final details, and your project will be complete, and you'll be so glad you did it.

Paul Winans is co-founder of Winans Construction in Oakland. Visit the company's Web site at www.winconinc.com.

Real Estate Spotlight:

Historic Arts and Crafts home in Oakland



AFTER THE BIG SAN FRANCISCO EARTHQUAKE and fire of 1906, many San Franciscans moved to Oakland. Roscoe and Tirza Jones were part of this migration. They had a large, wonderful Arts and Crafts home built for them at 545 Mira Vista where they raised three children. Roscoe Jones was a prominent attorney and significant civic leader. Some of his accomplishments were president of EBMUD, the first president of the Oakland Port Commission, Alameda County Health and Tuberculosis Association, Oakland Civil Service Board, and Alameda County Legal Aid Society and first chairman of the Alameda County Welfare Council. As chairman of EBMUD's general organization committee, he headed the \$39,000,000 bond issue drive in 1924 to finance the Mokelumne project, assuring Oakland of pure and adequate water. After almost 20 years in this home, the Jones family moved on, and in 1928, Alameda J. Melchionni and his large family purchased this home, and they stayed until 1963. The current owners are both artists. One is very prominent in his field, and has served on the Oakland Arts Commission. This distinctive home is a five-plus bedroom, two-bath home, with detached artist studio and three garages (one of which is set up for workshop). Its wonderful surrounding gardens are full of luscious fruit trees, flowering shrubs, vegetable beds, patio, deck and pond. Price: \$799,000.

Listing agent: Adrienne Nash, Prudential California Realty, 510-763-4060, or visit adriennesh.com for the visual tour. An open home is being held Aug. 3 from 2 to 5 p.m.

California's median home price hits record high in June

■ Sales increase 7.2 percent when compared to June 2002

CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS
The median price of an existing home in California in June increased 15.9 percent and sales increased 7.2 percent compared to the same period a year ago, according to the California Association of Realtors (C.A.R.).
"The median price of a home in Southern California, especially in the Riverside/San Bernardino and Central Valley regions, con-

tinued to post impressive gains," said C.A.R. President Toby Bradley. "Prices in the San Francisco Bay Area region, by comparison, are appreciating at a slower rate than other regions in the state."

The median price of an existing, single-family detached home in California during June 2003 was \$376,260, a 15.9 percent increase over the revised \$324,640 median for June 2002, C.A.R. reported. The June 2003 median price increased 1.8 percent compared to a revised May 2003 \$369,450 median price.

Closed escrow sales of existing, single-family detached homes in California totaled 572,130 in June at a seasonally adjusted annualized rate, according to information collected by C.A.R. from more than 90 local Realtor associations statewide. Statewide home resale activity increased 7.2 percent from the 533,840 sales pace recorded in June 2002.

The statewide sales figure represents what the total number of homes sold during 2003 would be if sales maintained the June pace throughout the year. It is ad-

justed to account for seasonal factors that typically influence home sales.

"The wild cards in the equation are mortgage interest rates," said C.A.R. Vice President and Chief Economist Leslie Appleton-Young. "If the national economy recovers at a faster pace than expected, long-term rates will likely increase more quickly than we've anticipated. This could have a negative effect on affordability and the ability of Californians to purchase a home."

See REPORT, Page B2

The median price of an existing, single-family detached home in California during June 2003 was \$376,260, a 15.9 percent increase over the revised \$324,640 median for June 2002.

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<p>MONTECLAIR 4 Fairlane Dr \$1,980,000 Sun 2-5 CUBA Stunning and sophisticated home w/ SI, bridge views! Gracious & open spaces are perfect for elegant entertaining. Amenities galore! Rose Karsant \$10,339,4700</p>	<p>PIEDMONT PINES 2991 Holyrood Dr \$799,000 Sun 2-5 4 BR 2.5 BA Spacious tri-level w/ walking heart wall in roomy living-dining room. Smart use of space! Pretty parquet floors, home office near entry. Do not miss! Lydia Nayo \$10,339,4700</p>	<p>BERKELEY HILLS 10975 Caloden St \$625,000 Sun 2-5 3 BR 2 BA on 2 levels. Bay view, low pest, alt. gar. w/ 1 step to kitchen. Seismic retro, underground wires, extra storage, serene setting. Holly Rose \$10,486,1495</p>	<p>MONTECLAIR 475 Mountain Blvd. \$569,000 Sun 2-5 2 BR 2 BA Gracious single level living with easy indoor/outdoor access. Dual-pane windows, hardwood floors, eat-in kitchen, usable front & rear yards Ellen Lancaster \$10,339,4700</p>	<p>SAN LEANDRO 1621 151st Ave. \$349,000 Sun 2-5 2 BR 1 BA Sweet starter near Lake Chabot. Eat-in kitchen, fruit trees in front & rear. Well-kept Bungalow w/ E-Z commute options nearby. Lydia Nayo \$10,339,4700</p>
<p>CLAREMONT HEIGHTS 41 Evergreen Lane \$1,295,000 Sun 2-5 3 BR 2.5 BA Great SF Bay views. New construction, level back yard, chef's kitchen/family room combo w/ breakfast nook, formal living & dining, grand entry way. David Eckert \$10,339,4700</p>	<p>CROCKER HIGHLANDS 1278 Sunnyhills Rd \$1,250,000 Sun 2-5 3 BR 2 BA Tudor revival; leaded glass, hewn beam ceilings, French doors, 4 FP; MBR w/ walk-in closets; updated kitchen & bath; plus room now used as home theatre. Ellen Lancaster \$10,339,4700</p>	<p>SEQUOYAH HEIGHTS 10975 Caloden St \$469,000 Sun 2-5 3 BR 1.5 BA Level-in home on approx. 1/2 acre. Corner lot, well-maintained, HWF, dining room opens to nice patio & lush garden. Pride of ownership. Gary Robinson \$10,339,4700</p>	<p>DIMOND 2-1/2 BR 1 BA Charming 20's Craftsman bungalow w/ built-ins, FP, HWF, updated kitchen & fm rm, lovely garden w/ deck, det gar. Near shops, trans & schools. Claudia Bowman \$10,339,4700</p>	<p>LAUREL 2 BR 1 BA Lovely traditional has spacious rooms, formal dining room, dual pane windows, oak floors & terrific fenced yard w/ fruit trees. George Karsant \$10,339,4700</p>
<p>CLAREMONT HEIGHTS 5046 Cochran Ave \$1,349,000 Sun 2-5 4 BR 2.5 BA New construction. 5-bridge view, fabulous finishes, gourmet kitchen/family room combo, private office & lavish master suite w/ private terrace. Joan Alford \$10,339,4700</p>	<p>ROCKRIDGE 5046 Cochran Ave \$1,100,000 Sun 2-5 3 BR 3 BA Choice Upper Rockridge street. Custom-built 1993. Quality & nice detail throughout. Large kitchen & family room; spa. Motivated seller. Donald Coelho \$10,339,4700</p>	<p>PIEDMONT 401 Scenic \$939,000 Sun 2-5 3 BR 2.5 BA Majestic oak tree shades this mid-century, custom designed Contemporary. Level-in to open, flowing entertainment areas on lovely tree-studded site. Darcy Diamantine \$10,339,4700</p>	<p>ROSE GARDEN 1 BR 1 BA Private Redwood grove! Excellent building, great commute location, quiet & peaceful. Jonathan Dunn \$10,339,4700</p>	<p>ROCKRIDGE (UPPER) Prime view lot in desirable location. Soils & engineer reports available. Comes w/ architect's plans for a Mediterranean-style villa. Wow! Becky Andersen \$10,339,4700</p>
<p>CLAREMONT HILLS 6826 Sherwick Dr. \$945,000 Sun 2-5 3+BR 3+BA 1999 build; great floor plan & separation of space; approx 3220 sqft; usable front & rear yard; kitchen w/ granite, SS, HWF. Ellen Lancaster \$10,339,4700</p>	<p>OAKLAND HILLS 3509 Klamath \$1,200,000 Sun 2-5 4 BR 3.5 BA New construction. 5-bridge view, fabulous finishes, gourmet kitchen/family room combo, private office & lavish master suite w/ private terrace. Joan Alford \$10,339,4700</p>	<p>LOWER TEMESCAL Near Piedmont Ave. & BART 6-unit building. Five 2-BR units + 1 studio. Gated! Rental market rates: all units are vacant. New roof, fresh paint. Elena Stone \$10,339,4700</p>	<p>MONTECLAIR 4 BR 3 BA 4-yr-old custom home w/ bridge view, level-in, lots of light, hardwood floors, FP in family room & master suite. Very clean-move right in! Judy Ackerman \$10,339,4700</p>	<p>ROCKRIDGE (UPPER) Prime view lot in desirable location. Soils & engineer reports available. Comes w/ architect's plans for a Mediterranean-style villa. Wow! Becky Andersen \$10,339,4700</p>
<p>OAKMORE 2309 Bywood Dr. \$925,000 Sun 2-5 4 BR 3 BA Classic Mediterranean w/ architectural features, bridge & Bay views, living room w/ beamed ceiling, random plank floors, FDR, updated kitchen w/ granite. Norm Robinson \$10,339,4700</p>	<p>CROCKER 673 Arimo Ave \$725,000 Sun 2-5 2+BR 3 BA Sunny 1922 Tradit. on much desired street. Nice ceiling details; HWF, master suite, fam rm, near Lakeshore shops. E-Z SF commute. Ruby N/Karen Lum \$10,339,4700</p>	<p>MONTECLAIR 4 BR 3 BA Like living on a country lane. Light & bright level entry home is close to Redwood Park. Updated eat-in kitchen & baths, family room & Bay view. Terry Kulka \$10,339,4700</p>	<p>IN THE BERKELEY HILLS 3 BR/2 BA home with garden a must. Up to \$885,000. Please call Carol Gamble, 510.981.3026.</p>	<p>Light-filled contemporary in Berkeley. 3 BR/2 BA plus garden. Up to \$1,000,000. Please call Nadine Oei, 510.981.3033.</p>
<p>CLAREMONT HILLS 2134 Linden Street \$499,950 Sun 2-4:30 2+BR 3 BA Wonderful home w/ lots of extras. Landscaped yard; studio w/ sep. entrance; gourmet kitchen w/ SS & stone, bonus room, study & workshop. Reva Tolbert \$10,339,4700</p>	<p>LOWER TEMESCAL Classic vacant 3/1 - 2/1 duplex w/ spacious up & down flats. Wonderful architectural details w/ built-ins & fireplaces. Convenient to BART, FWY & more. Jeffrey Neidleman \$10,339,4700</p>	<p>ELMWOOD/LECONTE SCHOOL 3+ BR/2 BA, sunny yard, like O.K. Up to \$700,000. Please call Sarah Shankman, 510.981.3031.</p>	<p>Rockridge or No. Berkeley. 2 BR or more. Craftsman or classic bungalow, up to \$500,000. Please call Bobbie Giarratana, 510.981.3031.</p>	<p>6137 LaSalle Avenue Oakland \$10,339,4700</p>

1495 Shattuck Avenue
Berkeley
\$10,486,1495

Report

FROM PAGE B1

Highlights of C.A.R.'s resale housing figures for June 2003:

■ C.A.R.'s Unsold Inventory Index for existing, single-family detached homes in June 2003 was 2.3 months, compared to 2.4 months for the same period a year ago. The index indicates the number of months needed to deplete the supply of homes on the market at the current sales rate.

■ Thirty-year fixed mortgage interest rates averaged 5.23 percent during June 2003, down from 6.65 percent in June 2002, according to Freddie Mac. Adjustable mortgage interest rates averaged 3.52 percent in June 2003 compared to 4.65 percent in June 2002.

Statewide, the 10 cities and communities with the highest median home prices in California during June 2003 were:

- Burlingame, \$1,282,500
- Beverly Hills, \$980,000
- Malibu, \$950,500
- Calabasas, \$905,000
- Laguna Beach, \$879,000
- San Marino, \$870,000
- Newport Beach, \$862,500
- Manhattan Beach, \$850,000
- Palos Verdes Estates, \$823,250
- Del Mar, \$819,500

Statewide, the 10 cities and communities with the greatest median home price increases in June 2003 compared to the same period a year ago were:

- Yucca Valley, 47.1 percent
- Santee 37.1 percent
- Arcadia, 36.6 percent
- Desert Hot Springs, 36.4 percent
- Perris, 36.2 percent
- La Quinta, 35.8 percent
- Ontario, 35.3 percent
- Laguna Hills, 34.3 percent
- Patterson, 32.9 percent
- Chula Vista, 32.5 percent

■ The median number of days it took to sell a single-family home was 28 days in June 2003, compared to a revised 23 days for the same period a year ago.

The MLS median price and sales data for detached homes is generated from a survey of more than 90 associations of Realtors throughout the state. MLS median price and sales data for condominiums is based on a survey of more than 60 associations. The median price for both detached homes and condominiums represents closed escrow sales.

In a separate report covering more localized statistics generated by C.A.R. and DataQuick Information Systems, 92 percent or 320 of 348 California cities and communities showed an increase in their respective median home prices from a year ago. DataQuick statistics are based on county records data rather than MLS information. DataQuick Information Systems is a subsidiary of Vancouver-based MacDonald, Dettlmer and Associates.

Large changes in local median home prices typically indicate both local home price appreciation, and often, large shifts in the composition of housing market activity.

Some of the variations in median home prices may be exaggerated due to compositional changes in housing demand



DENNIS EVANOSKY

MAGICAL MYSTERY FOUNTAIN: Standing 9-feet high and weighing in at 9,000 pounds, this fountain mutely awaits answers explaining its past

Oakland nonprofit arts group rescues mystery fountain

HE CRUCIBLE

The Crucible, a nonprofit sculpture studio, educational foundry and fabrication shop recently relocated to Oakland, has just rescued a gigantic cast iron fountain long abandoned in a city corporation yard.

The 9-foot tall, 9,000-pound piece is housed for the moment at the Crucible's busy West Oakland's workshop facility on Seventh Street.

A call to fountain lovers

Michael Sturtz, Crucible executive director hopes local fountain-lovers will help find resources with which to repair and restore it.

Ellen Wyrick-Parkinson, of the Oak Center Neighborhood Association, says that after restoration she hopes the fountain will find a permanent home outdoors once again, in the West Oakland neighborhood.

On a recent Saturday, the fountain was surrounded by Oakland Heritage Alliance walking tour participants who were staggered by the fountain's size and intricacy.

Oak Center and OHA members, Crucible staff and city staff are hoping that someone from the public will recognize the fountain and can provide leads for further information about its origin and original location.

West to the rescue

Now the search will begin for funding to restore the fountain, and to properly install it on an appropriate site.

Oak Center and Oakland Heritage Alliance members, Crucible staff and city staff are hoping that someone from the public will recognize the fountain and can provide leads for further information about its origin and original location.

Jerry West, a longtime public works supervisor with an appreciation for history, had had his eye on the old fountain for decades.

When the Ford Street lot in Oakland, where it had been stored, was slated to be cleared for a new Signature Properties development, West started to spread the word, and single-handedly saved the fountain from being sent to the scrap heap.

Information readers might have about the fountain can be phoned to Oakland Heritage Alliance at 510-763-9218 or sent by e-mail to the organization at oha@oaklandheritage.org.

Real estate agents mark themselves for success

BY ALAN J. HEAVENS

KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

PHILADELPHIA Is there a "typical" real estate agent? The National Association of Realtors would like us to think so.

The association's most recent survey, from 2001, determined that the typical Realtor:

■ Has a gross personal income of \$47,000 a year.

■ Works 43

hours a week.

■ Is a sales agent who has been in the business for 13 years.

■ Has been with the same firm for five years and has worked for one other firm.

■ Owns or leases a computer.

■ Is a 52-year-old married female who lives in a household with three people.

The association's research confirms what Anna Wildermuth, owner of Personal Images Inc. in Chicago, already knew.

"The typical agent today is a professional," said Wildermuth, who has a real estate license although she no longer practices. "It's no longer just a warm body."

John Duffy of Duffy Real Estate in Pennsylvania agrees.

"I no longer take on part-timers," he said. "It's become too complex a business for people with other jobs who can only devote nights and weekends."

In addition, Duffy said, thanks to computers and the Internet, "the business is a 24-hour-a-day one."

"Buyers and sellers don't want to be put on hold while a part-timer takes care of his primary job first. (Agents) have to be on top of the market and be able to react immediately," he said. "Otherwise, they won't succeed."

Today's agents have twice as many years of experience in real estate as they did in the 1970s, the NAR survey says.

Although agents are independent contractors rather than employees of their firms, they are recruited and trained in much the same way as in any other profession.

That is what Michael Dunphy was doing when he held a career night in Philadelphia in May, looking for agents to help him make the transition from his independent Dunphy Sells brokerage to his new affiliation with Weichert Realtors, which began in January.

The good response to his weekly training sessions, which he has been holding since February, surprised the 39-year veteran broker.

"Monthly sessions work well, but I wasn't sure about weekly ones," said Dunphy, who has about 10 new agents up and running and new ones in the pipeline, preparing

for and obtaining a Pennsylvania real estate license.

The process typically takes 60 days from the day a prospect decides to go for it.

Dunphy's training is continuing, "so if the new agent takes my session on how to negotiate and execute an agreement of sale and doesn't feel comfortable, he or she

with a real hippie attitude,"

he said. "So she cut her hair in a business suit, and she's a jewelry."

"The second year, I made a million dollars in real estate," Duffy said that when he had an initial meeting with a client, "I wear a suit and a tie."

Buyers and sellers don't want to be put on hold while a part-timer takes care of his primary job first. (Agents) have to be on top of the market and be able to react immediately," he said. "Otherwise, they won't succeed."

John Duffy, Duffy Real Estate

can come back and go through it again."

New agents are given a lot of help at the outset.

THE TYPICAL REALTOR

■ Has a gross personal income of \$47,000 a year.

■ Works 43 hours a week.

■ Is a sales agent who has been in the business for 13 years.

■ Has been with the same firm for five years and has worked for one other firm.

■ Owns or leases a computer.

■ Is a 52-year-old married female who lives in a household with three people.

"Usually, it takes six sales to get a new agent comfortable with working with himself," Dunphy said.

Real estate agents change brokerages for a variety of reasons, but primarily to improve their market share and increase their income.

That is how Duffy gets most of his new agents, but that does not mean he turns away novices.

"I'll talk to people with different attributes or from trades other than real estate," he said. "There are a lot of other professions that mesh well with the demands of this one."

For example, people with sales skills are a big plus.

"But these aren't the ones who make contact with customers by computer," Duffy said. "People-to-people contact is what this business remains all about, even with the advent of technology."

As in most other professions, real estate agents have to dress for success.

Wildermuth, the image consultant, has firsthand experience from her 12 or 13 years as a real estate saleswoman.

"My first year as an agent, I earned \$117.92," she said. "I wore casual clothing, had long flowing hair, and wore lots of jewelry — all

you don't take it seriously."

Dunphy, too, believes public perceives professionalism as a certain way, "and the agents should exude professionalism."

"They would be successful, of course, if a trash collector wearing a suit recently went to a law firm, lawyer was wearing a polo shirt. I was taken aback."

The rules that determine dress for success are both where you are and to whom.

Say you are selling Key West, Fla., which is a laid-back resort. You cannot assume you can go to a closing or first time buyers wearing a Hawaiian shirt.

"Key West has all different areas, with some neighborhoods and some ones," Wildermuth said. "I assume that while the climate is very relaxed, you know the client or the clients up by what they do to know what kind of need to present."

"Remember, first time houses sell a lot of house presentations of the agents to the clients."

In general, in high-end or second-home markets, agents have to be professional. They are typically wealthy, sophisticated, and demanding the highest of service for the commission.

What about people in a market?

"This is where the realtor's presence is an important role in how and what kind of sales you use," Wildermuth said.

"After all, that agent percentage of your commission."

See SUCCESS, P. 1

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to most people.

the problem of getting
appliances, a clothes washer
r, down narrow basement
We had friends years back
into a laundry in their tiny
ent but there was no way to
appliance into position. Or
re?

un looked over the situation,
about it, and came up with
on. He'd cut them in half and
in back together again. What
! How did he do it?

ist encircled each appliance
erforated metal strap, drilling
over its length. Then he re-
the strap, sawed all the way
the cases to halve them
at the machines were in
pieces, there was plenty of
to move the motors and
then the casings down the

Shaun reassembled the
and bolted them back to-
using the pre-drilled straps.
ed like a miracle. In fact,
our friends moved and
to take their washer and
th them. Shaun did the en-
again in reverse

n this severe-and-attach op-
was described to me, I was
red, full of admiration for
because, I am sure, just
every other person in the
ould simply have said that
ry in that particular base-
an't in the cards.

that, Anet and I started hir-
un for all sorts of jobs. For
a, when I was faced with
ets of deteriorating French
pening to my patio, I asked
when I could do short of re-
them. The joints at the bot-
most doors were coming
ould I have to discard them?
un didn't think so. Instead
le door Band-Aids. He cut
ular sheets of brass large
to cover the lower portions
doors. Then he pulled the
joints together snugly and
the metal to the doors with
crews. The metal, now tar-
bit still pretty, continues to
ob a dozen years later.

long ago, Shaun, his wife,
d 11-year-old daughter Ka-
ugh land in the boonies.
where they are currently
g (out of a trailer home)
ving on a more permanent
d, a tree house.

cess
GT B2
more information he or she
to help you successfully
those clients, the better,"

markets require harder
to others.
town markets in general
more businesslike ap-
than suburban ones," Wil-
said. "That doesn't mean
agent has to be really stiff
of what I call 'relaxed
casual.'"

than home selling can be
wed, but again, it depends
individual markets - right
the neighborhoods.
he dress for the market then
fairly obvious: "The best
to mirror the style of your
Wildermuth said.

about the new-home mar-
ress code for our sales-
wines from market to mar-
community to community
a number of factors," said
back, who heads public re-
Pulte Homes in Bloom-

er factors include accepted
style in the area, the ex-
of our customers, and
r level of the individual
ment," he said.

ample, salespeople in an
ity community will have a
style than those in a coun-
setting or an entry-level
hood.

want to portray an image
oodies trust and re-
lity while putting the po-
tomer at ease and com-
discussing the details of a
onal purchase," he said.

bottom line for real estate
and new-home salespeople
having an intimate knowl-
the market they are han-
image a real estate pro
presents should stand up
physically and socially

physical image Wildermuth
ays that the agent respects
her clients. It tells those
that she is well organized,
ent and professional.

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Large trees will support the floor
platforms for the house by way of
cables. Because the trees are live
and growing, Shaun has worked
out a way to periodically adjust the
floor attachments so that they'll stay
level and stable.

Already Shaun has set up a sys-
tem of transformers and battery-
powered generators for electricity
at the site. Water comes from a nat-
ural spring he discovered on the
land, and he's working on a way to
transport it automatically to the
home site.

Anet and I listen raptly as Shaun
tells us about the building he's do-
ing. We are fascinated by every de-
tail. For instance, he recently pur-
chased an old wringer washing
machine which he plans to hook up
to a bicycle.

The power to run the washer, the
means by which dirty clothes will
be swished around in the drum and
made clean, will be bicycle pedal-

ing. Daughter Karina will be doing
the legwork. But just in case she
runs out of steam, Shaun can use
generator power for the wash.

During a recent visit Shaun told
us the latest best Shaun story and
invention. This one involves the fam-
ily dog Hobo. It seems Hobo always
ran after the car or truck when the
family left the land.

They'd go off to get groceries or
something and there would be
Hobo running along behind. Wor-
ried that he'd be hurt, they resorted
to locking him in his dog carrier un-
til they returned.

But Shaun didn't like leaving
Hobo locked up for long hours. He
needed to think of a way for Hobo
to get out of his carrier after the car
was gone out of Hobo's sight, a
timed method for the dog to release
himself from his cage.

Here is what Shaun did. He

See TARPOFF, Page B4



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Not long ago, Shaun, his
wife, Ann, and 11-year-old
daughter Karina bought
land in the boonies, where
they are currently camping
(out of a trailer home) while
working on a more
permanent residence, a
tree house.

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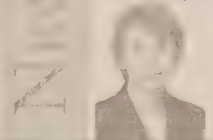
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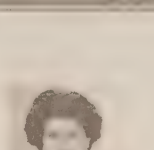
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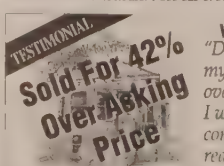
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Pioneer era buildings in the East Bay

Part one of three parts

The Oxford American Dictionary defines a pioneer as "a person who is one of the first to enter or settle a new region." In the architectural history of any community, pioneer era buildings are those that were built during the first generation after the founding of that community. Thus, pioneer era buildings in early Massachusetts towns are generally built before 1690 or so, while pioneer era buildings in Alaska may be from the 1920s.

In the East Bay, the first "Yankee" communities — towns

founded by English-speaking settlers from east of the Mississippi River — were created in the years between the Bear Flag Revolt of 1846 and the early Gold Rush. Therefore, pioneer-era buildings in these towns were built between about 1848 and 1878. In this series, I will examine the best remaining examples of pioneer era architecture in Berkeley, Oakland, and Alameda.

The town of Berkeley really began as two separate communities. First came the town of Ocean View, which was settled in 1852 in the

area west of San Pablo Avenue. The second area was near the current UC Berkeley campus, in what is now called the South Campus district. These two communities were merged into one when the City of Berkeley was incorporated in 1878.

The oldest remaining pioneer-era building in Ocean View, and one of the oldest in the East Bay, is an old wooden store at 834 Delaware St., a frontier general store built in 1854, which is now a residential building. It retains its original pedimented roof and wood latticed windows.



MARK WILSON
Owning A Piece of History

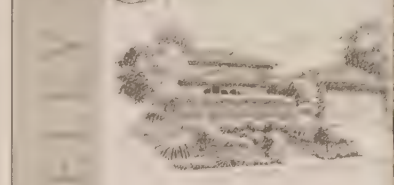
At 1824 Fifth St. is the 1878 Joaquin de Silva House, an excellent example of a raised-basement, false-front, Victorian-era "working-man's cottage," with Italianate-style shelf molding and double curved brackets above the windows and under the cornice line.

See WILSON Page B5

A stroll around South Cam

Mark A. Wilson will lead a walking tour of some of the distinguished buildings in Berkeley's South Campus area this Saturday. The tour will include such landmarks as the Julia Morgan-designed Berkeley City Club and the 1904 McCreary House, a Colonial Revival mansion and carriage house. Meet at 2 p.m. in front of the City Club on Durant Ave. in Berkeley. The fee is \$10 per person, cash or check.

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Tarpoft

FROM PAGE B3

drilled a hole through the hard plastic dog crate and inserted a metal rod which rose above the crate roof. Then he attached two empty coffee cans to the pole, one above the other. In the bottom of the upper can, Shaun punched a hole.

Now he poured water in the top can. The water trickled through the hole into the can below. When the lower can contained enough water — when it was heavy enough — it

sank. And it is this sinking that released the dog crate door. Through a series of pulleys, a bungee cord and stout twine attached to a gate latch, the door opened and Hobo was freed.

Anet and I couldn't contain our excitement. We were thrilled by this latest proof of Shaun's ingenuity, and we had plenty of questions.

Yes, it works. Hobo has come to understand that all he has to do is wait and he can get out of his crate. He willingly gets inside when he's told to.

It took Shaun a morning of experimentation to make the system

work. At first he punched a small hole in the upper can, then timed how long it took for enough water to run through.

When that proved to take too long, he enlarged the hole and timed it again. In the final design, 15 minutes elapsed before the crate latch is released.

Now isn't that one of the smartest ideas you've ever heard?

Pat Talbert and Anet Tarpoft are residential real estate agents who can be reached at 653-2050 and atwww.tarpoftandtalbert.com.

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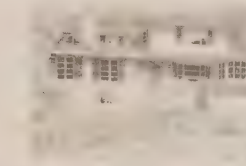
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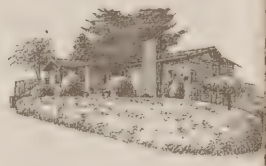
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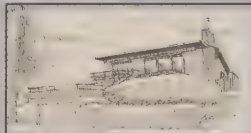


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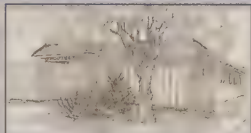
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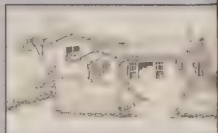
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Wilson

M PAGE B4

few doors away, at 1808 Fifth St. the Charles Heywood, also in 1878. This is another raised-rim cottage, with Italianate-curved windows and door, and style trim.

was built for a member of the Heywood Family. Charles Heywood, brother of the city's first socialist or in 1913 (but hardly the last), as Heywood's distinction was acting a scandalous affair with a married woman.

he block away, at 1809 Fourth and the Chego House, built in 1877 by the Heywood Family as an investment. This two-story, red-roof neo-Classical box has half molding above the windows. Three of the oldest houses in the city stand at 1607, 1609, 1613 Fifth St.

These are "pioneer boxes," or rectangular wooden homes with little decoration. They all have gabled roofs. Number 1607 is a wide, pillared porch, and has a small pedimented porch.

These three homes were built between 1865 and 1875. The South Campus area, very old, remains from the pioneer era. One of the few extant houses from the period is the Hillegass House, 11 Dana St. at Parker.

was built in 1868 for one of the founding fathers of Berkeley. The residence is a fine example of a raised basement Italianate style, with a false front bracketed pediment, arched windows, doorway, and a balustraded porch.

intact cast iron railing with cast gateposts encloses the lot. The oldest building in the Campus area, and it was built in 1868 for one of the founding fathers of Berkeley.

his raised basement Italianate style was one of the first houses in the new University campus. It was built in 1876 for a Mr. Wood. The next week's column, I will about some of the best examples of pioneer era architecture standing in Alameda.

A. Wilson can be reached at 424-9383 or by e-mail at wilson@aol.com.

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The public is always welcome at the Inform Meeting. The Inform is sponsored by the **Alameda Association of Realtors**. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month. The next meeting begins at 8:30 a.m., Tuesday, Aug. 12. The location is the Garden Isle Community Center in Alameda. The focus of each meeting is an invited speaker and the discussion of important real estate, economic and community concerns. Agents are encouraged to bring information on new listings for presentation to the group. For more information contact **Remy Boyd** of AAR at 510-523-7229.

Your Home

"Your Home" is the focus of a series of monthly seminars on a variety of home enhancement topics. The classes are held at Ryan's Antiques on Main Street in Hayward. Sherry from I Love Stain Glass presents "Using Stain Glass in Your Home Décor," Sunday, Aug. 10. Seating is limited. Contact seminar sponsor **Alleen Matteson** of Coldwell Banker for reservations at (510) 881-7755.

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BerkeleyHome Real Estate offers a speaker series with home design professionals discussing their work and answering your questions. Architect and product designer **Charles Debbia** is the presenter on Saturday, Aug. 9. To RSVP, call **Catherine Stern** of BerkeleyHome Real Estate at 510-524-5406.

Building Education Center

If you're handy around the house or want to learn how, the Building Education Center in Berkeley is the place for you. BEC provides ongoing classes, lectures and events for the experienced and those new to remodeling and renovation. There are evening classes on weekdays and daytime classes on the weekends. Contact **Sydney** at 510-525-7610 or visit the Web site at bldgeductr.org.

REAL ESTATE REUNION

Be a part of the Real Estate Old Timers Reunion Luncheon. The reunion started ten years ago and is the brainchild of **Bob Valva** of Valva Realty in Oakland. "It's an opportunity to get together with friends

and industry acquaintances from the past," said Valva. "People get busy and lose touch. This reunion is a fun and easy way to catch up." Real estate agents and affiliates from Berkeley, Oakland, Alameda and San Leandro, aged 55 and over are invited. If you would like to be on the mailing list or receive more information call Valva at 510-451-7317.

WCR LUNCHEON

The Women's Council of Realtors East Bay Chapter monthly meeting date is Friday, Aug. 22. The meeting begins with networking at 11:30. The location is Scott's Restaurant, at Jack London Square in Oakland. Learn more than you want to know about "Legal Pitfalls." For reservations call WCR President, **Patricia Bouie Hinds** of Classic Investments at 510-834-0702 or bouiehinds@sbcglobal.net.

WANTED COMMERCIAL BROKERS

Bob Valva of Valva Realty invites Oakland real estate brokers to attend the Oakland Realtors Commercial & Industrial Brokers Committee. According to Valva the group was appointed years ago, by the Oakland mayor to facilitate city sales and leasing. The committee's purpose is to help build Oakland. The next meeting is Thursday, Aug. 14, at the OAR Auditorium on Webster. If you would like to attend call Valva at 510-451-7317.

EXOTIC EDUCATION

It's a tropical setting for the Na-

tional Association of Real Estate Brokers Annual Convention. The Realtists convention will be held Aug. 8 to 14, at the Ritz Carlton in Montego Bay, Jamaica. The gathering offers classes, motivational speakers, a beach party, city tours and more. Call **Tyrone Cossey** of Fidelity National Title at 510-893-8100.

BROKER'S LICENSE

New state regulations now make it faster and easier to get a broker license. Attendees will learn changes and revisions, math shortcuts and test tips. Receive live class test preparation with instructor **Minnie Lush**. For more information call Executive Programs at 800-416-1996.

"e-BUYER" COURSE

The Real Estate Buyer's Agency Council of the National Association of Realtors offers an elective course. The course called "e-Buyer" is designed to help take the next step after mastering computer and Internet basics. REBAC is the awarding body for the ABR (Accredited Buyer's Representative) and ABRM (Accredited Buyer's Representative Manager) designations. To learn more about this six hour course and ABRM designations call 800-648-6224 or visit the Web site at www.rebac.net.



BOBBIE REID
Great Worthing

WHO'S ON FIRST

RE/Max of California & Hawaii maintains a "Top 100" list of its top-producing agents. The list is updated monthly. Applause to **Michael Hughey** of RE/Max Bay Area in Berkeley, he ranked 15 on the list. The company boasts 8600 agents.

WHAT'S UP DOCT

Tell me about it! Fund-raisers, meetings, workshops, promotions, designations and change of scenery (company). Information deadline is two weeks before the event. Send an email to bobbierid@mind-spring.com. Fax your info to me at 510-441-7191.

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER.

House hunting?
This week's Open Home Guide starts on B18.

Find Out What Your Home is Worth On-Line
visit:
www.PiedmontHomeValue.com

Agent: Ric Mox

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REALTORS



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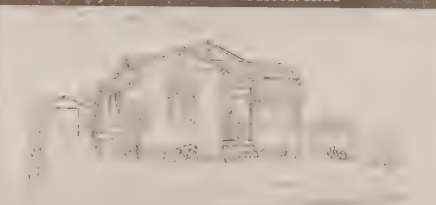
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Cozy Gem in San Leandro

Offered @ \$349,000

This sweet starter is light and bright. The eat-in kitchen features original cabinetry, with new linoleum and tile counters. The neat front and rear yards have flower beds and mature fruit trees. Terrific light abounds in every room.

Open Sunday 2 til 5

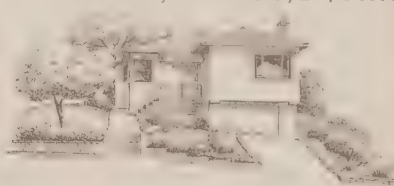


For More Information Contact
Lydia Nayo
510-339-4728 Direct Line
Awriter@attglobal.net



New Listing in Laurel District

OPEN SUNDAY, AUGUST 3, 2-4:30PM



3820 Enos Avenue, Oakland

2+ bedrooms, 1 bath. Random plank hardwood floors in living room and formal dining room. Large landscaped yard. 2-car garage.

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Lee Jacobson, CRS
Senior Sales Consultant
(510) 338-1309

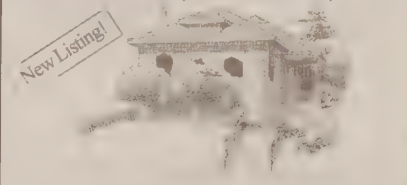


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pacunion.com

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OPEN SUNDAY, AUGUST 3, 2-5PM



4134 Gilbert Street, Oakland

Oozing with charm and character, this 2++ bedroom, 1+ bath home comes with classic detailing, 2 fireplaces, huge country kitchen with Wedgewood stove, big porches and private yard, even a lofty garden cottage. Prime Piedmont Avenue location.

Offered at \$549,000

www.fritzsellshomes.com



Fritz Hochfellner
Senior Sales Associate
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Just 3rd, 2-4:30 PM



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PATTI JO BRENNAN

510.280.2141

1891 Salamo Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707

Taking a look at 'home improvement' loans

One of the most common questions we hear is "We'd like to do some remodeling," (or "We'd like to replace our 10-year-old car). Does it make any sense to get a home equity loan?"

If you need to borrow money from your home — and you're disciplined about your finances — a home equity loan is a good option.

There are two kinds of home equity loans: fixed-rate loans and home equity lines of credit (also known as HELOC's). Many lenders charge no points or closing costs for lines of credit, which make them the most popular option among consumers.

Lines of credit offer variable rates which move up or down with an index. Most are linked to the prime rate. The prime is hanging in at around 4 percent, thanks to Mr. Greenspan's latest cut to the short term rates. It's been declining for the past couple of years, but you can't bet on it for the future. Only two and a half years ago it was hovering around 9 percent.

A HELOC is almost always set up with a 10-year draw period and then turns into a 15-year variable rate mortgage. You are required to pay interest only on the amount you have borrowed during the draw period. Say you have a \$100,000 line of credit and after 10 years, the principal balance is only \$54,000. The lender would recast your loan and you would begin repaying that loan based on a 15-year amortization.

Nearly every line of credit based on prime is a "prime plus" margin. In a variable (or adjustable) loan, consider the margin as the only fixed-rate in the loan. Normally, a rate of one point over prime is common, but you can get a lower rate if you shop around. If your combined loan to value is less than 89.9 percent, you may even qualify for a "prime only" loan with a six-month teaser rate of prime minus one (today that would be 3 percent).

That's the most important advice for home equity loans — be a shopper. Banks and savings and loans are famous for their short-lived home equity sales. One of my fa-

vorites is Mechanic Bank's "Prime Only". They run this promotion for a month at a time. There are no costs for the loan up to \$100,000 and an 80 percent loan to value. And, they only require a drive-by appraisal. (They want to make sure that the house is actually there before they loan against it.)

Higher loans to value are available at higher interest rates. Many lenders offer 100 percent loan to value but the margin can be between three to four points over prime.

Many banks offer temporary teaser rates that expire after a few months or a year. These days, some teasers hover between 1.95 to 3.5 percent. But, be sure you pay attention to what the interest rate is based upon after the teaser expires.

With little or no closing costs, it is possible to jump from one teaser to another, as many people do with their credit cards. Make certain, however, that your lender imposes no prepayment penalties.

Usually, you can arrange the payment on a line of credit so they pay down the loan over a certain number of years, or you can simply pay the interest on the loan and let the principal linger.

The decision you make should be based on the reason for the loan. You don't want to be in hock forever on an item that will last only a few years. If you are borrowing to buy a car, for example, you may want to add enough principle to your interest only payment to pay the car off in three to five years, the usual length of an auto loan.

There are fixed-rate loans and these usually take the form of traditional junior liens — second trust deeds (as do the HELOC's). Normally fixed for fifteen, twenty or thirty years (the thirty year has a fifteen year balloon payment), the interest rates are ranging between seven and eight percent with good credit and eight to ten percent, for less than perfect credit.

Rates are adjusted for credit level, combined loan to value and the borrower's ability to document their income.

People with a lot of equity in their



KAREN SENZIG
Mortgage Madness

home might want to consider refinancing their entire mortgage for a higher loan instead of adding on a home equity loan. Thirty year fixed rate mortgages are running at historical lows with conforming loan amounts (loans equal to or less than \$322,700 for a single family home) ranging from 5.50 to 6.0 percent for a 30-year fixed and 4.875 to 5.50 percent for a 15 year fixed. Most lenders will waive closing costs if you pay a slightly higher interest rate.

As with all good things, be careful about home equity borrowing. Remember that you are putting your home on the line, the single greatest asset in most people's lives. Miss your credit card payments and the lender won't take your house. Miss your home equity payments and kiss your home goodbye.

The greatest danger may be for people who use a home equity loan to consolidate debt run up on credit cards. If they keep the cards active — after they pay them off — and continue to run up debt, they'll find themselves up a financial wall with no home equity left and no easy way to pay the bills.

Still, with discipline, there are good reasons for taking out a home equity loan. Considering the tax deduction benefits, they may well beat the cost of college loans. And if you are borrowing for home improvement, you may be increasing the value of your home. It's just another tool in Mortgage Madness.

Karen Senzig is co-owner of Montclair Mortgage with her husband Scott. She can be reached at 510-339-8511, fax 510-339-3814, e-mail ksenzig@aol.com. Please contact her with any mortgage questions and/or topics for discussion.

Realty agents to the rich and famous must go all out

BY ANDREA COOMBS

CBS MARKETWATCH

Last time you went house hunting, did your real estate agent's chauffeured Bentley pick you up?

If not, you probably weren't shopping for a luxury home in Manhattan, where high-end condos and townhouses run \$10 million, and up. Prospective buyers at any income level need to be treated well, real-estate agents say, but sealing a high-end deal often requires special treatment.

"You have to deliver them to the property in high style," said Barbara Corcoran, chairwoman of The Corcoran Group, a New York City-based real estate firm.

"In New York, that's not a taxi. It's a Bentley or a Rolls Royce, if you can afford it, with a private driver," she said. "That's very flattering to the buyer."

"Then, of course, you use your car and driver to drop off a thank-you note to the person, and have your chauffeur hand deliver the note. It's a home run," she said, noting that her firm has found homes for the likes of Richard Gere, Courtney Cox Arquette, Sting and Bianca Jagger.

The firm's current listings include a \$35.3 million, 7-bedroom, 7-bath, 10,000 square-foot condominium overlooking Central Park, but a more average example might be the \$12.9 million condo with 2 bedrooms, 2.5 baths and about 5,000 square feet.

Last time you went house hunting, did your estate agent's chauffeured Bentley swing pick you up?

Of course, the sphere of New York City luxury homes is a world unto itself.

"If you have a property worth \$1.5 million, by any other standard that's a luxury property, but in New York that's middle class," Corcoran said. In her city, luxury starts at \$3 million.

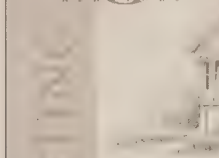
While New York City may be the only high-end market where agents use chauffeurs, well-heeled buyers everywhere require a level of expertise that a midlevel buyer might not, agents said.

"To deal with high net worth people, you have to be an expert," said John Codrington, president of Cotton Real Estate Co., Mass., where homes start at \$2 million.

"They deal with experts, so you have to be an expert in real estate values," he said.

See FAMOUS Page 2

The GRUBB Co.



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\$389,500
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ALBANY
555 Pierce St. Unit 1509

\$348,000
Albany penthouse with stunning Golden Gate and San Francisco views. Updated kitchen and baths, fireplace and new wall-to-wall carpet. One of 4 units on top floor of deluxe resort-like condominium complex.

Open Sunday 2-4
Todd Hodson 559-2915

COUNTRY CLUB VISTA RICHMOND

3640 Park Ridge \$599,900

Spacious living w/cathedral ceilings and Bay views. 4 bed, 2.5 ba, exquisite master suite. Beautiful hardwood floors, chef's delight kitchen w/adjacent great room; expansive park-like grounds. Upgrades galore!

Open Sunday 2-5

Crystal Elliott 292-3041

Merrilyn Rhodes 292-3048

RICHMOND ANNEX

5908 Sutter Ave. \$379,000

Immaculate three bedroom, one bath home. Freshly painted, beautiful hardwood floors. Comfortable one-level living. Private fenced backyard. Easy freeway access. Close to great shopping. Clear pest report.

Open Sunday 2-4

Anita & Alice Wilson 292-3056/292-3042

EL CERRITO

6921 Fairview \$550,000

Exquisite S.F. & Golden Gate view! 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Still available.

Open Sunday 2-4

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187 Sandpiper Drive, Pittsburg

\$319,000

Charming Millington home. 2+ bedrooms w/ 1.5 baths, fully landscaped in front and back. One car garage. Convenient to shopping and transportation, close to schools.



2367 Crocker Court, Antioch

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Spacious 4 bedroom, 3 bath, 3200 sq. ft. Views of Mt. Diablo. Gourmet kitchen w/ granite countertops w/ backsplash. Dual zone air conditioning. Security system.



1201 Melville Square #208, Richmond

\$415,000

Views, Views, Views of Marina Bay w/ extended deck. Rare 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Nice step-up living room w/ parquet flooring, some carpet. Ideal for boating and hiking.



6236 Laird Avenue, Oakland

\$339,000

Charming Millington home. 2+ bedrooms w/ 1.5 baths, fully landscaped in front and back. One car garage. Convenient to shopping and transportation, close to schools.



324 Sunset Drive, Danville

\$889,000

Georgian home in Danville. Uppercrust features huge eat-in kitchen, updated granite countertops, sunlit living room, fireplace in master bedroom w/ Jacuzzi jet tub. Fully landscaped w/ views, views, views.



6008 Harmon Avenue, Oakland

\$439,950

Great income property for this town place. One remodeled studio, three 1 bedroom w/ 1 bath each. Convenient for shopping, public transportation. Live in one and rent the others.



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885 Island Drive, Alameda

hbrhomes.com

Oakland

\$155,000 3233 Monterey Blvd. Large wooded lot with spectacular views next to very nice homes. Jeff Goodman 510-814-4885

\$259,000 1458 34TH ST., Emeryville Border. Dramatic space, modern unit, designer kitchen, tile patio & soaking tub. Garage and off St. parking! Elaine 510-814-4835

\$299,900 2380 108th Ave. Single level 2+ BD, 1.5 BA bungalow with new appliances, new paint, new carpets, new central heating and new back lawn. 2 car detached garage. Maryann 510-814-4873

\$388,000 8041 Greenly Dr. Secluded Keller area. French Country single level home with 3 BD, 1 BA, hardwood floors, and fresh paint inside and out. Move-in condition! Donaluci 510-814-4826

\$360,000 1426 MacArthur Blvd. OPEN SUN 2-4. Glenview District. Completely remodeled inside & out. 2+ BD, 1 BA, partial view of SF and Oakland. EZ access to freeway. Elaine 510-814-4835

\$425,000 744 26th St. 3 unit, 3 bath, 3 car garage, style report available. PENDING 510-814-4706

\$499,000 3231 Monterey Blvd. Fabulous Bay views from 3 BD, 2 BA home! Large family room, 2 fireplaces. Needs cosmetic work. "As is" sale. Steve Sorensen 510-814-4888

\$649,000 1002 Bella Vista Ave. 4-plex! Historic craftsman w/ 2 BD, 1 BA, 2 units added w/ 2 car garage. Call on one parcel! PENDING 510-814-4829

\$539,000 2224 22nd St. Potrero Hill Mediterranean w/ 2 BD, 1 BA, hardwood floors, wood floors, updated bath and 2 car garage w/ PENDING 510-814-4647

Chuck 510-814-4647

How to check your home's insulation needs

BY KEN SHEINKOPF
THE ORLANDO SENTINEL

Insulation is one of the most important elements of a home's efficiency, helping to keep energy bills low and the interior comfortable. Making sure that a home has the minimum recommended levels of insulation may be the best suited for a professional contractor. Shop for estimates from several local contractors; then choose the one that will do the best job, at the best price. You choose to check your home's insulation levels yourself, how to do the job properly, these tips in mind when making a decision:

You're going to spend a lot of time in the attic, because this is part of the house to insulate. Attics are tough to walk in, require careful steps to avoid falling between the rafters, and they can be hot and uncomfortable. You must wear protective gear to avoid contact with the rafters. Long-sleeved shirts and pants, gloves, safety glasses and a cotton mask or even a respirator.

You'll be working around recessed lights, stovepipes, electrical wires. All of these special considerations to ensure safety and ventilation in the attic.

Remember that this is a job that has to be done just right to be effective. You're going to be in the wall cavities, under floors and in the attic that are hard to reach. You can't skip these places and hope that the insulation will be effective.

When you're ready to do the work, be sure to protect yourself. If you suspect that vermin or other pests have been used in your home, take special care. Check out the Web site epa.gov/as-

Remember that this is a job that has to be done just right to make it effective. You're going to find places in the wall cavities, under floors and in the attic that are hard to reach. You can't skip these places and hope that the insulation will be effective.

can find copies online at www.eere.energy.gov. One document shows a drawing of a house with examples of where to insulate, and the highlighted places cover the entire perimeter of the structure, from room to basement.

Among the key areas that need to be insulated to minimum recommended levels are:

- Unfinished attic spaces, where insulation is needed between and over the floor joists. Don't forget the attic access door.

- Finished attic rooms need insulation between the studs of knee walls, between studs and rafters of exterior walls and the roof, above ceilings and into the joist space.

- Exterior walls are important, especially between the living spaces and unheated rooms like garages or storage areas.

- Floors above cold spaces need special attention as well. This includes floors above vented crawl spaces or unheated garages. Insulate slab floors built directly on the ground, along with any portion of a floor that is cantilevered beyond the exterior wall below it.

When you're ready to do the work, be sure to protect yourself. If you suspect that vermin or other pests have been used in your home, take special care. Check out the Web site epa.gov/as-

best for information on Environmental Protection Agency's recent warning on this material and several Web pages with reports, fact sheets and other general information.

Keep in mind that insulation must have a continuous layer of material with no gaps, cracks or air bypasses to allow it to work effectively. This leads to some special care in installation.

For example, insulation at the edge of the ceiling cannot be allowed to contact the roof decking and block airflow from the soffit vents. Batts or blankets should butt tightly against framing or other insulation. The material should be cut to fit at framing joints so that there is no buckling or gaps.

And special care must be taken when insulating near recessed light fixtures. Fire safety

See INSULATION, Page B12

How to cope with rising homeowners' insurance costs

BY RAY MARTIN
CBS MARKETWATCH

BOSTON — Protecting a house with homeowners' insurance is supposed to provide security from the risks of property and liability losses.

But few homeowners' today are feeling very secure about their insurance as millions are being hit with increased premiums, lower coverage, denied claims and canceled policies.

The situation is being called a homeowner's insurance crisis in some areas, with major providers like State Farm Insurance no longer writing new policies in states including Texas, California and Louisiana.

A Consumer Federation of America survey found that, nationwide, homeowner's insurance rates increased by more than 13 percent in 2002 and seven percent in 2001.

In many states, however, the increases were much higher: In Iowa, rates rose 33 percent, in Texas, 57 percent. In Florida, State Farm recently won approval to raise rates by 42.5 percent.

There are several factors contributing to this "crisis": investment income has been falling at insurance companies, the costs of certain claims like mold have

doubled since 1997, the costs of repairs have increased and home values have increased — all increasing the risk insurance companies are taking on.

Also, up until recently, homeowners' insurance was typically offered as a loss leader to get at the more lucrative auto insurance business from customers.

Now that major providers, such as GEICO and Progressive Insurance, have aggressively gathered market share in auto-product lines, many companies are left with a large portfolio of home policies where they were paying out millions more in claims than they were collecting in premiums.

Nationwide, insurance companies paid out \$6 billion more in claims and expenses in 2002 than they collected in premiums.

The new reality in the homeowner insurance industry is that insurers are charging higher premiums and imposing tougher underwriting standards on the coverage they provide to homeowners, which includes canceling coverage for habitual claims filers and terminating coverage based on the past claims history of a particular property.

Insurance companies long have charged more for life insurance coverage for smokers and for auto insurance for those with more driving indiscretions.

Now, homeowners need to think twice about making a claim for a loss on their homeowners' insurance much as they do for claims on their auto insurance.

Here is what you need to know to deal with this situation:

- Don't file small claims. Why pay for the coverage if you are not going to use it? According to insurance-industry analysis, if you have a loss in the last three years, you are 25 percent more likely to have a loss in the next 12 months.

- This likelihood increases to 75 percent if there are two losses in one year. Think twice before filing small claims for things like lost luggage or other personal property items because you may need to claim a more substantial loss later.

- Even claims filed but not paid are still recorded as a claim and loss. Several claims over a short period may trigger your insurance company to view you as a habitual claims filer and lead to cancellation.

- Assume more risk. Raising your deductible from \$250 to

See COSTS, Page B13

GRUBB Co.
REALTORS

60 Westminister Dr., Claremont Lines
COMING SOON. A grand foyer leads to an elegant living room and library, both with French doors to the lovely back garden. This wonderful home offers five bedrooms, four and one half updated baths, Alan Johanson kitchen and three fireplaces.
Offered at \$1,595,000

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1200 POMPINS AVE., OAKLAND.
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OPEN SAT & SUN 2-4
2129 LINCOLN AVE., ALAMEDA.
3 bedrooms, 2.5 bath, new carpet, just steps to park, beach, shopping & transportation. Great starter home. \$237,500. Signe Nelson, 510-748-1103 & Debra Gorman, 510-748-1127.

SUNDAY 2-4
PEARL ST., ALAMEDA BEIN
SCHOOL STARTS! Just steps to school, 3 bedrooms, 2.5 bath, large family room, formal dining room, granite master suite, new carpet, new kitchen, new appliances. \$299,000. Debra Gorman, 510-748-1103.

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4
461A CENTRAL AVE., ALAMEDA BEACH
COTTAGE! Studio/1 bedroom bungalow, just steps to park, beach, shopping & transportation. Great starter home. \$237,500. Signe Nelson, 510-748-1103 & Debra Gorman, 510-748-1127.

MACARTHUR BLVD., OAKLAND.
Selling house: 3 bedrooms, 2 bath, new carpet, new master suite, new kitchen, new appliances. \$299,000. Debra Gorman, 510-748-1103.

65 EL PORTAL DR., CLAYTON.
MEDITERRANEAN MASTERPIECE. Enjoy summer by the sparkling pool or relax in the quiet foothills of Mt. Diablo. Beautiful 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath home \$730,000. Virtual tour at veelby.com. Shown only by appointment with Ruth Masonek, 510-748-1103.

368 BLOSSOM WAY, HAYWARD. GREAT FAMILY HOME.
Sunny well maintained home with 3 bedrooms, 2.5 bath, new carpet. Close to schools. \$459,000. Joan Cecconi, 510-917-7339.

3276 ROUND HILL DR., HAYWARD.
LOTS OF LIVING SPACE. 4 bedroom, 3 bath, 2 story home. Large deck overlooking yard, balconies, formal living & dining areas, fireplace, large family room. Perfect for indoor/outdoor entertaining. \$599,000. Moon Tam, 510-747-1620.

3RD ST., BERKELEY. TWO
ON 1/2 LOT. Each 3 bedrooms, 2 bath, large family room. \$549,000. Mary Ann Herber, 800-523-1134.

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GallagherandLindsey.com

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**4+ BEDS
2 BATHS
6,400 LOT
\$499,000
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1126 BELLA VISTA

MAIN HOUSE: 2 BEDS, 1 BATH
- FORMAL LIVING / DINING
- RICH HARDWOOD FLRS.
- BEAUTIFUL WOOD TRIM
- NON CONFORMING IN-LAW
- 2 BEDS, 1 BATH

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2 New Listings

407 N. Wildwood • Hercules
#332 - IMMACULATE CONDITION! Gorgeous 3 bdrm., 2.5 bath townhouse. Hardwood floors downstairs, plantation shutters throughout, vaulted ceilings in livg. room and bdrms. Austrian crystal chandeliers. Upgrades in kitchen and bathroom and 2 car garage. \$382,500

7224 View Ave. • El Cerrito
#266-Charming custom built home near Mira Vista Golf & Country Club. Generous size living rm. w/fireplace formal din., spacious kit. w/breakfast rm. & built-in hutch, spacious mstr. bdrm. suite w/tub & stall shower, in-law potential, plus a panoramic S.F. Bay view. \$659,500

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In the Oakland Hills

Perched atop spectacular hills and stunning surroundings, with fast and easy access to the entire Bay Area, Protea Properties, Inc. presents four newly constructed homes.

8231 Skyline Circle, Oakland • Open Sat. and Sun. 1-5 PM
Priced from the mid \$800,000s

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OF
HOMES & APARTMENTS

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Brokers Brett Weinstein & Hal Feiger

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"The fact that Hal and Brett saved me a bundle in commissions was the least of their attributes. Even more important was their experience and savvy in strategizing a marketing plan that not only net a great sales price, but proactively addressed potential problems in such a way as to keep the entire sale smooth and trouble free." Dan Wilson, Satisfied Seller

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www.redoakrealty.com

JUST LISTED!
5430 MacDonald
El Cerrito
Offered at \$489,000
Open Sunday
August 3rd & 10th, 2-4 PM

Large 4 bedroom, 2 bathroom home nestled in the El Cerrito Foothills.

This home has the added features of a small study and a rumpus room with fireplace and wet bar. This property is further enhanced with a partial view of San Francisco from the kitchen.

VIRGINIA JONES
510.280.2145
1891 Solano Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707

Famous

FROM PAGE B6

With high-end homes "just looking at square footage and number of bedrooms doesn't give a clear indication of how much a home might be worth to a buyer," said Peter Toner, a real-estate agent with Prudential California Realty in La Jolla, Calif., where he sells both luxury and midprice homes.

Instead, high-end property agents need to be able to interpret the raw data on comparables, he said. The view, the size of the lot, the way the house faces and amenities are among the factors that play a part in a high-end buyer's decision.

A softer top-end market doesn't make an agent's job any easier.

"None of the super-rich people ever really have to sell, and so they pick and choose what offers they want to entertain," Corcoran said. "And right now, very rich people aren't making incredibly high offers on these properties, so we have a little standoff going on, so we have more of those properties on the market than we've had recently."

That means agents must spend more money on advertising, and work harder to maintain their relationships with unhappy sellers. In a soft market, agents "promote (the property) a lot longer than expected, and that's going to cost them a lot more money," Corcoran said.

Also, "they're going to have a trophy-property owner who's not going to be happy, and the maintenance of the relationship is more of a challenge. Sellers often hope a real-estate agent can make the market for their property, but they can only deliver the market.

"If it ain't there, it ain't there. It's rough. There are a lot more top agents in New York dropping very expensive listings (because sellers) won't adjust their sales price, because it's just too darn exhausting to hold onto it."

That's less of a problem in La Jolla, Toner said.

"We're actually seeing more sales on the top end than we did last year," he said.

Two notable recent sales: A home that fetched \$11.25 million, with 5 bedrooms, 7.5 baths, nearly 11,000 square feet, a pool, an ocean view and a dining room with retracting roof; and a new beachfront home that sold for \$3.9 million, with 5 beds, 7 bathrooms and 5,700 square feet.

The right advertisement is key in securing high-end real estate sales, experts said, but not because a buyer will purchase the house advertised: Sellers will list houses with agents who have slick ads.

"Ninety-eight percent of every marketing budget for real estate in America is still spent on print advertising, which makes every seller feel happy because they feel flattered, but it gives every broker a headache because it's expensive and it never sells property," Corcoran said.

Agents place ads to keep sellers happy, and as enticement to bring in buyers. But while agents in the midlevel home market will settle for point-and-shoot photos, professional photographers are called in at the high end. "When we photograph, it can take three or four hours to get one shot done" to get the lighting just right, Cotton said.

Another difference in the high-end market: Sales take longer.

"The operative word is patience, because you have to wait, some times a long time, for the right property to become available," Cotton said.

"We know one person who really wants a large property on the ocean. He spent more than \$6 million for an interim house, so he can be on the scene and wait for the perfect property to come on the market," he said.

Toner said he worked about 11 months on one recent sale, a \$2.9 million home — complete with orange grove, tennis court and pool — opposite the Rancho Santa Fe Golf Club near San Diego.

Like all sales work, high-end luxury real estate requires an extensive network of contacts.

"High-end people stick together. You know how fish travel in schools? I won't say high-end people are like fish, but they want to be with people who have similar backgrounds, similar achievements, similar aspirations, so once you start to do a good job with someone in that group, they will refer others," Cotton said. "No matter what kind of business you're in, (if you work with) high net worth individuals, you don't break into it over time. It takes time to establish trust."

And to massage egos, some said. "They don't want to know you have another client. They want to believe they're the only ones in the world," Corcoran said.

"You have to treat their time, their constraints and the enormous pressure they have on their plate, with great respect and adoration."

WEEKLY SALES

ALAMEDA

74 Applegate Wy - \$798,000
1225 Bailena Bl - \$685,000
2160 Buena Vista - \$490,000
406 Centre Ct - \$230,000
1730 Eagle Av - \$540,000
817 Harbor Rd - \$480,000
3326 Liberty Av - \$585,000
136 Roxburg Ln - \$450,000
1543 Santa Clara A - \$445,000
1825 Shoreline 211 - \$225,000

BERKELEY

1636 9th St - \$500,000
2950 Avalon - \$1,350,000
1247 Carrison St - \$415,000
1907 Chestnut St - \$413,500
3036 College Av - \$725,000
764 Contra Costa Av - \$875,000
254 Hillcrest Rd - \$750,000
2624 Hillgass Av - \$750,000
1411 Holly St - \$550,000
2744 Mathews St - \$385,000
1013 Miller Av - \$565,000
595 Santa Barbara - \$595,000
1317 Santa Fe Av - \$585,000

EL CERRITO

7027 Central Av - \$430,000
5724 Fern St - \$525,000
1910 Key Bl - \$510,000
1340 Norvell St - \$425,000

EL SOBRANTE

16 Allen Ln - \$550,000
4922 Appian Wy - \$770,000
4104 Barranca Av - \$305,000
830 Fulton Wy - \$288,000
4168 Garden Rd - \$357,000
5319 Ridgeview 5 - \$187,500

EMERYVILLE

1281 64th St - \$200,000
5 Admiral Dr #F412 - \$182,000
5855 Horton St #409 - \$194,500
5855 Horton St #525 - \$500,000

OAKLAND

310 105th Av - \$279,000
1837 106th Av - \$400,000
1657 11th St - \$85,000
768 11th St - \$530,000
2533 23rd Av - \$184,000
1428 34th Av - \$425,500
849 34th Av - \$360,000
1366 34th St - \$326,500
2116 38th Av - \$240,000
3820 39th C - \$242,000
566 45th St - \$280,000
414 49th St - \$515,000

875 55th St - \$340,000
3374 64th Av - \$290,000
1440 66th Av - \$285,000
2448 66th Av - \$289,000
1657 80th Av - \$251,000
2702 99th Av - \$325,000
663 Appar St - \$650,000
861 Athens Av - \$299,000
1465 Auseon - \$266,000
5363 Bancroft Av - \$250,000
2800 Bartlett St - \$200,000
142 Beechwood - \$1,290,000
5346 Broadway - \$487,000
6315 Buena Ventura - \$514,000
2432 Burlington St - \$640,000
2435 Burlington St - \$600,000
17 Captains Cv - \$730,000
6091 Castle Dr - \$745,000
1588 Chandler St - \$376,000
1590 Chandler St - \$372,000
1592 Chandler St - \$331,000
5735 Claremont - \$550,000
3039 Coolidge - \$235,000
4108 Coolidge - \$585,000
3842 Delmont - \$345,000
9303 East St - \$356,000
11111 Estepa Dr - \$255,000
4537 Fieldbrook - \$545,000
843 Grosvenor Pl - \$975,000

5545 Harmon Av - \$236,000
2552 Havenscourt - \$288,000
555 Jean St #422 - \$202,000
5360 Locksley Av - \$625,000
209 Marlow Dr - \$467,000
2610 MLK Jr Wy - \$460,000
5833 McAndrew Dr - \$965,500
5350 Miles Av - \$676,000
619 Montclair Av - \$570,000
2946 Morgan Av - \$480,000
16 Murdock Ct - \$278,000
245 Perkins St #305 - \$228,000
5839 Presley Wy - \$842,500
3414 Revere Av - \$582,000
4238 Ridgmont Ct - \$740,000
3904 Ruby St - \$450,000
5247 Saddle Brook - \$697,000
5901 San Pablo 303 - \$370,000
5625 Scoville St - \$300,000
7970 Shay Dr - \$510,000
3373 Suter St - \$319,000
5372 Thomas Av - \$819,000
829 Vermont St - \$585,000
360 Vernon 200 - \$210,000

PIEDMONT

120 Bell Av - \$1,300,000
660 Boulevard Wy - \$615,000

111 Highland Av - \$1,100,000
95 Ronada Av - \$886,000
1015 Winsor Av - \$725,000

RICHMOND

1427 25th St - \$255,000
440 29th St - \$225,000
755 34th St - \$397,000
530 37th Av - \$278,500
324 3rd St - \$225,000
637 40th St - \$312,000
622 5th St - \$196,000
840 7th St - \$150,000
653 8th St - \$263,000
2369 Andrade - \$289,500
605 Banks Dr - \$175,000
506 Barrett Av - \$455,000
2612 Bayfront Ct - \$359,000
2604 Beach Head - \$358,000
2710 Chanslor Av - \$300,000
1348 Cherry St - \$172,000
6415 Claremont - \$410,000
5871 Clinton Av - \$300,000
5706 Columbia - \$375,000
2318 Downer Av - \$321,000
2745 East Ct - \$215,000
1610 Gaynor Av - \$250,000
617 Griffin Dr - \$242,000

1413 Hayes St - \$330,000
4513 Jenkins Wy - \$300,000
5805 Madison Av - \$300,000
1207 Melville 112 - \$200,000
239 Murdock St - \$200,000
67 Overlook Ln - \$200,000
4606 Robert Wy - \$300,000
592 Rock Rose - \$400,000
2418 Roosevelt Av - \$400,000
1505 Scenic Av - \$400,000
2203 Sea Shell Dr - \$400,000
3906 Selmi - \$488,000
3915 Selmi - \$459,500
671 Sonoma St - \$400,000
432 S. 34th St - \$225,000
100 S. 39th St - \$225,000
317 S. 9th St - \$318,000
2619 Virginia Av - \$200,000
701 Virginia Av - \$380,000

SAN LEANDRO

1878 Arena St - \$380,000
262 Bancroft Av - \$300,000
1644 Beechwood - \$300,000
1366 Breckenridge - \$300,000
3966 Carmel Wy - \$300,000

See SALES Page



Today's
Real
Estate in
the East
Bay
by Marc
Guay

OPEN HOUSE SURPRISES

Some studies have shown something that surprises even a lot of real estate professionals. The home that is sold because of an open house usually isn't the home being held open; it's another home that more clearly meets the needs and wishes of the home buyers, one that the real estate professional later showed the prospective home buyers he or she met at the open house.

This certainly doesn't mean that it's pointless to have your house held open on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon. The fact is, holding an open house makes both the real estate community and the local neighborhood more aware that the home is for sale. It's an easy opportunity for people to take a look at the home, under the guidance of a skilled real estate professional.

But it is sobering to realize that holding an open house may create more of a chance of a neighbor's house selling than it does of the open house itself selling. And it suggests something about trying to sell your own home — because the open house technique is one of the main ways a private party has of selling his or her house. The key word in selling an appropriately-priced, attractive property is "exposure". There is no getting around the fact that the entire real estate community in the area can expose a home to more potential buyers than can its owners. Do call us for help. Just call Marc at 280-2103 and visit his web site at www.marcguay.com

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Crocker Highlands



1087 Ardmore Avenue

Delightful Monterey Colonial features 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, formal dining room opening sunny deck, convenient kitchen with pantry, large breakfast room, 2-car garage, landscaped gardens. A very functional and charming home.

Offered at \$699,000



812 Northvale Road

Incredible 1921 Mediterranean offers exceptional space and style. Highlights include beautiful grand formal rooms, library/study breakfast room with French doors to garden, 4+ bedrooms, 3+ baths, over 3200 square feet, exquisite architectural features. A spectacular house for entertaining.

Offered at \$800,000

More information and photos at:
www.doloressthom.com



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OPEN SUNDAY, AUGUST 3, 2-5PM
New Listing! Grandlake Craftsman Bungalow



484 Crescent Street, Oakland

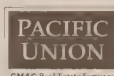
Rich architectural detail with original woodwork, leaded windows & inlaid hardwood floors!

3++ bedrooms, 1 bath
Oversized master bedroom/home office
Rec/rumpus room. Updated kitchen

Offered at \$579,000



Jeffrey Himmel
Senior Sales Consultant
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New Listing!

OPEN SUNDAY, AUGUST 3, 2-4:30PM



5575 Florence Terrace, Oakland

This light fresh ranch home has a spacious floor plan made for easy living. Close to Montclair Village

3 bedrooms/ 3 baths • Family Room & rumpus room
Formal living & dining rooms • Remodeled kitchen • Level yard

Offered at \$689,000

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OPEN SUN 2-4:30

HILLER HIGHLANDS \$695,000
New listing! Lovely garden home, end unit with bay and greenbelt views. Huge decks. Spacious rooms with vaulted ceilings. Hardwood floors. Bonus room. Lots of sun. Walk to club. 2,023 sq. ft., 3+ bedrooms and 2 1/2 baths.
GAYLE TANTAU



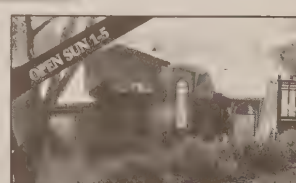
OPEN SUN 1-4

MAXWELL PARK \$425,000
First time on the market in 30 years! Period details abound in this spacious Normandy home on Christmas Tree Lane. Spectacular living room with inviting inglenook and cathedral ceilings, large formal and informal dining rooms, well-manicured gardens. 4+ bedrooms, 2 baths.
JODY DWORZAK



OPEN SUN 2-4:30

OAKMORE HIGHLANDS \$820,000
Renovated Tudor with ultra private backyard for spa-enjoyment! Three bedroom, two bath, huge recreation room, cook's kitchen with large breakfast area. Formal dining room, vaulted ceiling living room. Bright throughout!
HELEN NICHOLAS



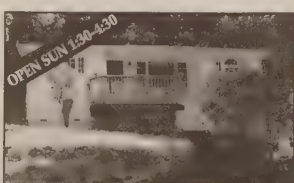
OPEN SUN 1-5

MONTCLAIR \$989,000
5,400 sq. ft. custom home built by owner. Each room shows details and personal touch to fine finishes. 6 bedrooms, 6 baths. Large family room with custom built wet bar. The master suite is a show place of its own. This is a home you have to see inside.
DON PETTY



OPEN SUN 2-5

MONTCLAIR \$669,000
Park-like setting + storybook cottage on double level lot. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, updated kitchen. Beautiful hardwood floors, living room, dining room. Enjoy large yard, patio, deck. This is a one-of-a-kind home just a short walk to Montclair Village.
DIONE COTA



OPEN SUN 1:30-4:30

MONTCLAIR \$599,000
Granite chef's kitchen (5 burner gas cooktop) renewed to perfection. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, bonus exercise room. Hardwood flooring. Fireplace. Beautiful level out patio/garden from kitchen area. Excellent privacy/sunny. Zero pest report.
HAL CASTLE



OPEN SUN 2-4:30

NORTH OAKLAND \$399,000
Great potential for this North Oakland four bedroom, one and a half bath Craftsman. Spacious rooms and good light abound. Grand piano size living room, formal dining room with a period chandelier, and a huge country kitchen are some of the features of this "Contractor's Special".
TOM ERWIN



OPEN SUN 1:30-4:30

MONTCLAIR \$699,000
Imagine - English Country manor, incredible charm & beauty throughout. Level out patio, decking & garden. Bay views. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, formal dining, architectural magazine quality.
KATE CASTLE

TWO LOTS
MONTCLAIR: New price! Upslope in a wooded area, approx. 7,000 sq. ft. Walk to Montclair Village. \$120,000.
MONTCLAIR: New price! Prime location in Piedmont Pines, upslope. 83 acre with building pads, reports available. \$299,000.
MURY HANNA

BERKELEY \$305,000
Golden Gate and Bay views from top floor with one parking space. Walk to UC Campus & Elwood shopping.
TRACY TAN-BRONSON

NORTH BERKELEY \$2,500,000
Grand old house approx. 5,500 sq. ft. with 8 bedrooms, 9 baths + cottage on two parcels with one continuous Japanese garden. Panoramic unobstructed bay views. Combine the charm of the old with modern touches. Flexible floor plan. Home could be used for group living or home + income.
MARY HANNA

Open Sunday 2-4:30
OAKLAND \$299,000
Price reduction! Authentic yesteryear charm. Two bedroom, one bath Victorian in need of some TLC.
SHEILA BROXCRAW/FORD

Open Sunday 2-5
GRAND LAKE \$905,000
Great for owner occupant. MAIN HOUSE: Fabulous Traditional. Original features throughout. Spacious 3+ bedrooms 1 1/2 baths, formal dining, breakfast room, study, sunroom, updated kitchen & bath. SECOND UNIT: Remodeled 1 bedroom, 1 bath plus an updated non-conforming studio. Back yard.
ADRIANA GIACOMELLI

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Sales

FROM PAGE B8

1519 Coral Av - \$425,000
 13474 Doolittle Dr - \$250,000
 1290 Esser Av - \$364,000
 2360 Fairway Dr - \$279,000
 15358 Farnsworth St - \$400,000
 2264 Heathrow Pl - \$390,000
 381 Leo Av - \$321,000
 1416 Pajaro Ct - \$375,000
 910 Sybil Av - \$300,000
 1540 Thrush Av - \$280,000
 2601 Walnut Dr - \$470,000

SAN LORENZO

16032 Bayberry - \$495,000
 15855 P. Del Campo - \$364,000
 49 Paseo Grande A - \$265,000
 17 Paseo Grande D - \$295,000
 15959 P. Larga Vista - \$350,000
 1769 Via Chorro - \$365,000
 17363 Via Flores - \$389,000
 1423 Via Lucas - \$260,000
 16019 Via Primero - \$330,000

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By the numbers

ALAMEDA

TOTAL SALES: 10
 LOWEST PRICE: \$225,000
 HIGHEST PRICE: \$798,000
 AVERAGE PRICE: \$492,800

BERKELEY

TOTAL SALES: 13
 LOWEST PRICE: \$385,000
 HIGHEST PRICE: \$1,350,000
 MEDIAN PRICE: \$585,000
 AVERAGE PRICE: \$650,654

EL CERRITO

TOTAL SALES: 4
 LOWEST PRICE: \$425,000
 HIGHEST PRICE: \$525,000
 AVERAGE PRICE: \$472,500

EL SOBRANTE

TOTAL SALES: 6
 LOWEST PRICE: \$187,500
 HIGHEST PRICE: \$770,000
 AVERAGE PRICE: \$409,583

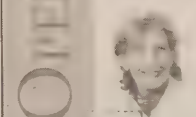
See SALES, Page B11

The GRUBB Co.



37 Eucalyptus Path, Berkeley

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. New Price! Dramatic three
 bridge view from this secluded home just above the
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933 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley

Originally offered at \$949,000

1838 Arlington Blvd., El Cerrito

Originally offered at \$499,000

3515 Libby Ct. Oakland

Originally offered at \$449,000

240 Galdecott Ln. #309, Oakland

Originally offered at \$299,000

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Visit GRUBBCO.COM for
 Photo Tours of current listings.

THIS WEEK'S OPEN HOME GUIDE STARTS ON B11

545 Mira Vista

Open Sunday, August 3rd, 2-5

\$799,000

"The Queen"

Grand Lake/Rose Garden
 Craftsman, Mini Estate



Adrienne Nash, CRS

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- Best of Craftsman features in this 11+ room home.
- Truly a one-of-a-kind amazing home opening to special garden
- Art studio, plus 3 special detached garages w/workshop.
- Carefully maintained and preserved home.
- Located in popular Grand Lake - Convenient to everything

Visual Tour + full

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RARE LOFT/TOWNHOME LISTING!

Open House - Sunday, August 3, 2003 1-5pm



PiedmontAvenueLofts

3933 Cerrito Ave

Offered @ \$539,000

An Amazing Loft/Townhome in An Amazing Neighborhood

Find out why these unique urban loft/townhomes sold out in record time, just 2 years ago. This stunning real estate features 2 bedrooms and 2 full bathrooms, and 3 stories of incredible space and light. Built by a quality builder, exacting standards with extensive use of hardwoods, architectural metal work, natural stone, acid stained concrete and museum quality wall finishes. Soaring 24 foot ceilings are flooded with natural light. 3 decks give you plenty of outdoor space, huge industrial windows open up vistas from every room, a spacious eat-in kitchen, and a garage are just some of the components that make loft living here so great. Your new home is wired for the future with cable, satellite, CAT5 phone and data - all run to act as a local area network (LAN) with-in your loft. This was one of the most desirable floorplans and boasts one of the best views in the whole complex. The master suite loft has a real sense of drama, overlooking the living area and the master bathroom is a work of art with a granite tile floor and oversized oval tub. The eat-in kitchen is a dream for both the cooks and the helpers - featuring stainless steel appliances, tons of quality work space and a plethora of cabinetry. The sleek black granite countertops compliment the unique cherry and maple cabinets creating a beautiful look. The second bedroom is what really sets this loft apart from its competitors with a private deck, ample storage, and acid washed concrete floors - it is just perfect for guests/a home office/ or ??

If you are looking for a real neighborhood then you are in luck. The neighbors at PiedmontAvenueLofts are friendly and connected. The local neighborhood is unparalleled in loft living in the East Bay. Piedmont Avenue is just 2 short blocks away and offers all the finest - Restaurants, shops, movies, cafes, book stores, and sunny places to walk, watch and work. Commuting is a snap from here and of course there are gallons of coffee nearby!

Ron Kriss, Realtor®/Partner

510-547-5970 Ext 55 ronkriss@jps.net

Online Tour @ www.PiedmontAvenueLofts.com

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WALNUT CREEK (925) 938-8484

OPEN 2-4:30



4304 WEBSTER STREET \$610,000
Temescal. 20's Tri-level superbly maintained family owned since 1965. Bright, sunny, spacious. Original 4BD/1.5BA, many features. A must see on your list! Anne Manley 531-7000x277



4314-16 SHAFTER AVE. \$499,500
Temescal. Just Listed. 1928 Mediterranean side-by-side duplex in popular Temescal area. Spacious 3BD w/hardwood flrs, eat-in kitchen, deck & level backyard. Second unit is 1BD/1BA. Freshly painted outside. Don Dunning 531-7000x239

707 45th STREET \$399,000
North Oakland. Two 2BD houses on one lot with yard, ample off street parking. Great opportunity for owner to live in one, rent the other, or solid income property. Near MacArthur BART. Stan Hammond 531-7000x246



400 WAYNE AVENUE #6 \$359,000
Lakeshore Area. 2BD/2BA Spectacular views of Lake Merritt & city lights, small complex, 7 units, washer & dryer hookups in unit, wood floors, new carpet, pets allowed. Patsy Buhler 531-7000x238

OPEN 2-4:30

360 VERNON ST. #209 \$289,000
Adams Point. 2BD/1BA immaculate & in pristine condition. New appliances, unit totally upgraded with new fixtures, remodeled kitchen & bath. New carpet & fresh paint. Pleasant views. Patsy Buhler 531-7000x238

400 WAYNE AVENUE #3 \$279,000
Lakeshore Area. 2BD/1BA Lovely spacious unit, large windows with plenty of natural light, 7 unit building, gated parking, washer/dryer hookups in unit, wood floors & carpet in bedrooms, newer appliances. A must see. Patsy Buhler 531-7000x238

COMING SOON



PRIDE OF OWNERSHIP
Maxwell Park. This enchanting 3BD/1BA Mediterranean is located in the desirable Maxwell Park neighborhood. It has an updated kitchen, gleaming hardwood floors. French doors are leading to a delightful deck & level back yard. There is an additional finished room in the basement. Heidi Tuggle 531-7000x286



SPACIOUS STARTER HOME
Fruitvale. ...with two bedrooms, one bathroom up and a non-conforming unit down. Large deck off kitchen. Fireplace in living room, built-ins in dining room. Long driveway for off street parking. Two carports. Upgraded electrical. Carol Robbiano 531-7000x292

COMING SOON



CHARMING BUNGALOW
Glenview. Sunny 3BD, 1BA home in desirable neighborhood. Hardwood floors, fireplace, level yard, detached garage with workshop. Close to shops and restaurants, easy commute location. Nancy or Chris 531-7000x242

BY APPOINTMENT



GORGEOUS PANORAMIC BAY VIEW HOME \$1,395,000
Montclair. Exquisite contemporary, 5BD/3.5BA, great outdoor entertainment areas. Surrounded by lush mature trees providing total privacy from neighbors. Approximately 4,000 sq. ft. Call today for your personal viewing. Lease/lease option available. Doris Taboloff 925-943-1187

17 UNITS \$1,390,000
Lower Mills College. 1940's large floorplan. Concrete foundations. Newer roofs, new heating, new bathrooms, etc. Inc \$162,000/yr, projected 8% & 10% COC. Catherine Vallee 531-7006x258

ATTRACTIVE 6 UNITS \$595,000
North Oakland. Fourplex & duplex, large floorplans, rent ready, vacancies. 7.1% Cap, priced to sell. Catherine Vallee 531-7006x258

BY APPOINTMENT

VICTORIAN 4-PLEX NEAR EMERYVILLE \$540,000
North Oakland. Large 2BD unit & three 1BD units. Partially finished attic also. Lots of original charm. Stained glass, hardwood floors, grand entrance, hallway, updated electrical & newer roof. Lush garden in rear. Frank Hennefer 531-7000x235

2 UNITS \$490,000
Oakland. Three bedrooms, one bath each. Newer windows, hardwood floors & washer/dryer hookups. 1951's separate meter duplex. Priced to sell. Catherine Vallee 531-7006x258



GRACIOUS REMODELED TUDOR \$379,000
Oakland. Lovely inlaid wonderful, vaulted ceiling, arched window, original light fixtures, plus 3 bedrooms & a remodeled kitchen & bath make this a winner. Very useable bonus space in basement, yard with redwood tree. Stan Hammond 531-7000x246



CHARMING 2BD \$365,000
Maxwell Park. Decorator perfect with designer colors! Gorgeous refinished hardwood floors, formal dining rm., plus room for breakfast rm. or office, updated kitchen & bath, private, level yard, detached garage, basement for storage. Kate Phillips 531-7000x228

BY APPOINTMENT

SOUTH BAY VIEW \$380,000
Millsmont. Needs some TLC bedrooms, 2 baths, family room room with fireplace. Fantastic reports available. Frank Hennefer 531-7000 x235

DUPLEX \$339,000
East Oakland. Great value. V duplex, both units are two bedrooms fenced yard. Anne Bruff 531-7006x283

FUNKY ARTSY 3BD \$269,000
Temescal. Large, attic for storage eat-in kitchen, large basement yard, close to BART! Kate Phillips 531-7000x228

COZY COTTAGE \$229,000
Oakland. Affordable two-bed starter with fridge, stove, washer & inside access to garage. Sunny back for roses and veggies. Don Dunning 531-7000x239

LAND

LOOK OUT OVER THE CITY & BAY \$399,000
 Huge view lot, ready to build your own in the Claremont Hills, easy access to everything. Potential terraced garden make an offer. Heidi Kearsley 531-7000x295

BUILD YOUR DREAM HOME... \$250,000
 ...on this double size downsized magnificent views. Soil & survey available. Carol Robbiano 531-7000x292

BAY VIEW \$189,000
 Gentle upslope reasonably priced at \$1,000,000 plus homes. Near Miller Park. Anne Bruff 531-7006x283

ATTN: BUILDERS, INVESTORS, DREAMERS \$50,000-\$60,000
 Two upscale lots side-by-side in Shepherd Canyon Rd. (across from Girvin Drive). Build your dream home one or both. Kevin P. Kennedy 531-7000x204

www.wellsandbennett.com

es

PAGE B10

WIND

TOTAL SALES: 4
LOWEST PRICE: \$182,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$500,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$269,125

EASE RECYCLE.

OAKLAND

TOTAL SALES: 65
LOWEST PRICE: \$ 85,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$ 1,290,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$372,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$448,662

PIDMONT

TOTAL SALES: 5
LOWEST PRICE: \$615,000

HIGHEST PRICE: \$ 1,300,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$886,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$925,200

DIE TIMONDI

TOTAL SALES: 42
LOWEST PRICE: \$150,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$522,500
AVERAGE PRICE: \$314,417

PLEASE RECYCLE.

SAN LEANDRO

TOTAL SALES: 16
LOWEST PRICE: \$250,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$470,000

AVERAGE PRICE: \$358,594

SAN LEONIZO

TOTAL SALES: 9
LOWEST PRICE: \$260,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$495,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$350,000

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Visit:

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Agent: RedMax

GRUBB Co.

Berkeley - Open Sunday 2-4:30

1440 Queens Road

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. Cozy view home nestled in the hills of Berkeley. Flexible floor plan can be three plus bedrooms/ three baths or two bedrooms/two baths with permitted in-law unit. Fabulous filtered view to San Francisco Bay, and very private.

Offered at \$685,000

2632 Warring Ave., #10

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. Sunny top floor 2BR/1BA condo in secure building near UC campus. Cozy fireplace in living room, sunny balcony, elevator for easy access & hill views are all available in this special property.

Offered at \$345,000

TRICIA SWIFT

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Homes Open Sunday



BERKELEY - NEW LISTING! \$799,000
3+3/4 - Contemporary Berkeley Brown Shingle with a serene park-like yard. Close to Gourmet Ghetto, shops, transportation and campus. Convenience and comfort!
2252 Summer Street Open 2-4:30



BERKELEY - NEW LISTING! \$799,000
4+1/4 - Spectacular three-story Victorian Mini mansion, grand & spacious with original architectural details, country kitchen & G.G. views from atteller Needs TLC
1307 Acton Street Open 1:30-4:30



EL CERRITO - NEW LISTING! \$849,000
3/3 - Beautiful tri-level Contemporary with Wildcat Canyon views. Remodeled baths and gourmet kitchen, family room, den, workshop and decks. Stunning and serene
1024 Leneve Place Open 2-4:30



PINOLE \$350,000
3/2 - Very well-maintained Rancher home with large yard, hardwood floors and dual pane windows, new tile in kitchen and dining room. Centrally located
3218 Pinole Valley Road Open 1-4



BERKELEY - NEW LISTING! \$678,910
5/3 - Golden Gate views, light and space in a 50's Contemporary atop Grizzly Peak Two levels, 2 fireplaces, huge rec room, workshop/expansion space
950 Creston Road Open 2-4:30



BERKELEY - NEW LISTING! \$559,000
4/2 - 40's home with hardwood floors, new paint, new carpet and City lights! Kensington schools. Close to BART, Express SF bus, Solano Ave and Trader Joe's
368 Coventry Road Open 2-4



EL CERRITO - NEW LISTING! \$495,000
2+1/1 - Sparkling split-level with detached guest cottage/office in a quiet, desirable neighborhood. Near the Albany border. For more information: www.bobblumberg.com
145 Carmel Avenue Open 2-4



OAKLAND \$445,000
4+1/2.5 - Spacious two-story Laurel home Close to shops, freeway access and BART New paint, new carpet. Nice floorplan Move-in condition!
3825 39th Avenue Open 2-4



BERKELEY - NEW LISTING! \$429,000
2/1 - Classic bungalow close to North Berkeley BART. Separate dining room, large kitchen/nook, terrace overlooking magnificently lush garden and brick patio
1805 Franklin Street Open 2-4



BERKELEY \$950,000
3+1/2.5 - Dramatic view Contemporary in best location! Open floorplan, panoramic views. Indian Rock Park at doorstep. Soaring cedar entry, updated kitchen/bath, more!
807 Shattuck Avenue Open 2-4:30



EL CERRITO - NEW LISTING! \$489,000
4/2 - Nestled in the foothills, this home has a small study and a rumpus room with fireplace & wet bar. Partial view of San Francisco from the kitchen
5430 MacDonald Avenue Open 2-4



OAKLAND \$370,000
LOFT - In courtyard setting. Exciting three-story unit with level-in flex space. Living area with private balcony. Skylights and rooftop views. 1,630 square feet.
2932 Filbert Street #2 Open 2-4



BERKELEY \$549,000
2/2 - Quintessential Artist's retreat near Berkeley Bowl; skylights, leaded glass, hand tiling; French doors open from a tastefully remodeled kitchen to private garden
2736 Milvia Street Open 2-4



BERKELEY \$757,000
2 Units, one 3/2 & one 2/1 plus exceptional 2,885 sq. ft. workshop. Live/work near 4th Street shops and restaurants. 5,685 square feet total. Vintage detail throughout.
923-25 Delaware Street Open 2-4:30



EL CERRITO \$499,000
3+1/2 - Surprising features & lovely vistas in great location! Fabulous private garden. Gorgeous master suite with vaulted-beam ceiling, 2nd fireplace and sliders to deck.
560 Calusa Avenue Open 2-4



OAKLAND \$219,000
1/1 - Why rent when you can own?! Spacious with new carpets and paint. Great building with pool, sauna & workout room. Near Piedmont & Grand Ave.
500 Vernon Street #116 Open 2-4

BERKELEY - NEW LISTING! \$875,000
3/3 - 20's Craftsman with deck and view. Extensive updating, designer kitchen. Wonderful terraced yard for play/gardening.
1155 Glen Avenue Open 2-4

BERKELEY \$875,000
3+1/2 - Unique Contemporary with spectacular panoramic Bay views from every window. Serene garden settings.
987 Euclid Avenue Open 2-4

OAKLAND - NEW LISTING! \$239,000
2/1 - Cute and affordable on large lot with redwood fence. Beautiful garden, attached garage, great for 1st time buyers!
489 Clara Street Open 1:30-4:30

1891 Solano Avenue
Berkeley, CA 94707
510.527.3387

2983 College Avenue
Berkeley, CA 94705
510.849.9990

2099 Pleasant Valley
Oakland, CA 94611
510.292.2000

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Insulation

FROM PAGE B7

requires that you don't cover standard recessed lights with insulation material.

A final note on installation: If you're doing the job yourself, read the instructions on the package carefully and follow them. The listed R-value will rapidly lose much of its effectiveness if it is installed

improperly. Squeezing an R-11 fiberglass batt into half its thickness to fit into a tight space can cut its effectiveness down to R-7. Blown-in or poured-in insulation will not meet its listed R-value if you do not apply it evenly to the proper depth and density. Leaving gaps around pipes, wires and other openings will also seriously degrade the benefits of the insulation.

Energy experts offer one more bit of advice before getting too far along in your insulation project.

Check out your entire house to see what other energy-efficiency improvements you ought to make. Windows and doors that leak, for example, will help defeat the benefits of insulation by wasting excessive amounts of energy through air infiltration. Take care of many of the other problem areas in your home first to maximize the protection insulation offers the home.

If you get an energy audit of your home done first, you'll know

exactly where the problem areas are and what recommended repairs or improvements are needed. This can be the best way to begin a home energy-efficiency project.

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Visit:**

www.OaklandHomeLoan.com

Agent: Bill Marx

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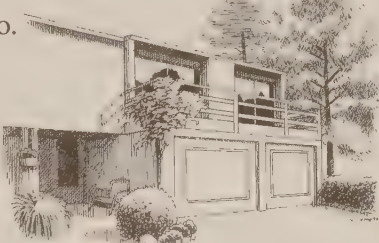
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77 Clarewood Lane, Oakland

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. Sunny and light townhome in sought after location. High ceilings, decks, three bedrooms, two and one half baths and a lovely private stream behind the property. Exquisite! *Offered at \$525,000*

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BROKER ASSOCIATE
OFFICE: 339.0400/217
GRUBBCO.COM

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Photo Tours
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New Listing in Crocker Highlands



873 Rosemount Road, Oakland

Dramatic Contemporary • 4+ bedrooms, 3.5 baths, large bonus room & office
Cook's kitchen w/limestone floors, granite countertops & stainless steel appliances
Large deck w/landscaped private yard • Elegant & sophisticated

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Joanna Hirsch
(510) 338-1366
jhirsch@pacunion.com

Offered at \$949,000

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UNION**
CMAC Real Estate

A sampling of our current listings:



Bernal Heights

Large, newly remodeled, 5 bedrooms,
3 1/2 baths on two levels. Southern
hills views. Refinished hardwood floors.
Tile and granite in kitchen & baths.
Quiet neighborhood street. One car
garage plus storage.
\$799,000



El Cerrito

3 bedroom, 2 bath home in most sought
after El Cerrito Hills. On quite cul-de-sac
with sweeping Bay, city, Marin, Golden Gate and
Bay bridge views. Vaulted ceilings, skylights,
large loft & office space plus modern spacious
kitchen. Nice flow of indoor-outdoor
living onto large deck and deep garden area.
\$658,888



Downtown

Quiet 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo overlooking
the garden and pool. Beautiful marble floors from
entry way to living room and second bedroom
(or den). Master bedroom has quality laminate
floors and a walk-in closet. Hunter Douglas
window coverings, track lighting and newer
kitchen appliances. Private balcony.
\$459,000

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California Realty**



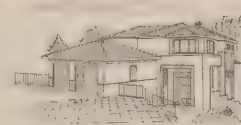
Jim Hedge
Manager
sfunionjim@aol.com

**2241 Market St. 2200
San Francisco San Francisco**

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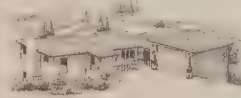
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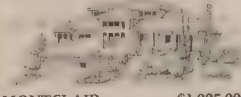
MONTCLAIR \$1,675,000
11 OBSERVATION PL. (Open 2-4:30)
Newly built, super chic contemporary.
Custom details & inviting spaces open
to fabulous SF views. 4BR, 3.5BA.
Michelle Vasey x1359



OAKLAND HILLS \$1,575,000
7070 NORFOLK RD. (Open 2-4:30)
Wonderful view from this almost new
contemporary by Paul Vincent. 5BR/
4.5BA, sep office, 4-car garage. Lots of
outdoor space. Keith Tollas x1382



OAKLAND HILLS \$1,175,000
2091 TUNNEL RD. (Open 2-4:30)
Luxurious 2001 custom contemporary
w/3BR/2.5BA, Chef's kitchen.
Exquisite finishes. Designed by
Richard Janzen. Dee Knowland x1318



MONTCLAIR \$1,005,000
6033 FAIRLANE DR. (Open 2-4:30)
4BR/3BA home in desirable location.
Family room, office & rumpus room. Bay
views, 3800+sf. Lovely traditional
finishes. Nancy Moore x1302



CROCKER HIGHLANDS \$995,000
654 LONGRIDGE RD. (Open 2-4:30)
Wonderful 2-story traditional. 4BR/2.5BA,
master suite, FDR, cook's kitchen, hardwood
floors, fireplace. Large lot w/wonderful back-
yard. Vicki Woodhead x1334



CROCKER HIGHLANDS \$949,000
873 ROSEMOUNT RD. (Open 2-5)
New Listing! Dramatic 4+BR/3.5BA con-
temporary. Large bonus room, office, cook's
kit, deck & landscaped private yard. Elegant
& sophisticated. Joanna Hirsch x1366

MONTCLAIR \$859,000
6982 BROADWAY TERR. (Open 2-4:30)
Reduced! Stunning 5yr. old contemp. Open
floorplan, 3+BR/2+BA, kit/fam rm combo,
wonderful light, yard. Kathy Flynn x1317

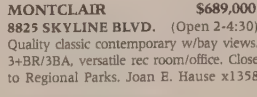
BERKELEY \$850,000
49 VICENTE RD. (Open 2-5)
Uniquely beautiful modernist design on
Vicente Road. Zen-like simplicity, tree-top
views. 2BR/2BA, studio/shop. SeeMore
@pacunion.com. Gini Erck x1339



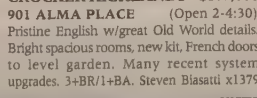
MONTCLAIR \$795,000
6400 LONGCROFT DR. (Open 2-4:30)
New Listing! Sleek 4 yr. old contemporary
with pizzazz. 4BR/3.5BA, kit/fam rm combo,
loft. Adjacent lot available for \$35,000.
Sandi Klemmer x1314 & Dick Cohen x1308



MONTCLAIR \$689,000
5575 FLORENCE TERR. (Open 2-4:30)
New Listing! Light fresh 3BR/3BA ranch
home. Spacious floor plan. Family room &
rumpus room, formal dining room, remod-
eled kit, level yard. Sandi Klemmer x1314



MONTCLAIR \$689,000
8825 SKYLINE BLVD. (Open 2-4:30)
Quality classic contemporary w/bay views.
3+BR/3BA, versatile rec room/office. Close
to Regional Parks. Joan E. Hause x1358



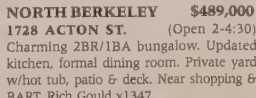
CROCKER HIGHLANDS \$679,000
901 ALMA PLACE (Open 2-4:30)
Pristine English w/great Old World details.
Bright spacious rooms, new kit, French doors
to level garden. Many recent system
upgrades. 3+BR/1+BA. Steven Biasatti x1379



GRANDLAKE \$579,000
484 CRESCENT ST. (Open 2-5)
New Listing! Rich architectural detail w/
original woodwork & leaded windows! Large
master bedroom/office, rumpus rm, updated
kit. 3+BR/1+BA. Jeffrey Himmel x1307



PIEDMONT AVE. \$549,000
4134 GILBERT ST. (Open 2-5)
New Listing! Circa 1908 craftsman oozing
w/charm & character. 2+BR/1+BA, huge
country kitchen w/Wedgwood stove. Yard
& garden cottage. Fritz Hochfeller x1348



NORTH BERKELEY \$489,000
1728 ACTON ST. (Open 2-4:30)
Charming 2BR/1BA bungalow. Updated
kitchen, formal dining room. Private yard
w/hot tub, patio & deck. Near shopping &
BART. Rich Gould x1347



OAKMORE \$489,000
3978 LYMAN RD. (Open 2-4:30)
New Listing! Beautiful, charming updated
bungalow on huge lot. 2BR/1BA, old world
charm. Bonnie Hirsch x1337



LAUREL \$425,000
3820 ENOS AVE. (Open 2-4:30)
New Listing! 2+BR/1BA, random plank
hardwood floors in living room & formal
dining room, large landscaped yard. 2-
car garage. Lee Jacobson x1309



SAN LEANDRO \$424,000
565 JUANA AVE. (Open 2-4:30)
New Listing! Charming Spanish Mediter-
ranean. 2+BR/1+BA, formal dining room,
eat-in kitchen, pool, pond w/waterfall & so
much more! Michelle Miller x1335

By Appointment

NORTH BERKELEY \$1,850,000
Award-winning restoration of a large & gra-
cious home in historic Daley's Scenic Park,
near UC & North Berkeley pleasures. Large
lot, 2nd unit. SeeMore @pacunion.com.
Gini Erck x1339

UPPER ROCKRIDGE \$1,795,000
New construction! Classic Mark Becker de-
signed home. 4+BR/3.5BA, crafts room, wine
cellar, master BR w/fireplace, hardwood,
granite. 4000+ sq. ft. James Duffy x1326

PIEDMONT \$1,350,000
Delightful 3BR/2.5BA traditional.
Formal dining & living rooms. Kitchen
w/informal dining. Family room opens
to patio. Nancy Moore x1302

BERKELEY \$1,195,000
Private light filled Mediter-
ranean Hacienda with 4BR/2BA plus 1BR
guest suite. Lush gardens, unbele-
vues. Leslie Avant x1341



BERKELEY \$895,000
Central to Elmwood, Claremont
Rockridge. Handsome 3+BR home
versatile rear buildings. Deep, lush gar.
SeeMore @pacunion.com. Gini Erck x1339

CLAREMONT HILLS LOT \$609,000
Large lot w/plans for 5637 sq. ft. home
Phillip Perkins. Borders an undevel-
oped 39+/- acre wooded parcel. David Ickman x1341

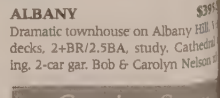
REDWOOD HEIGHTS \$599,000
Charming English with 3BR/2BA
family room. Distinct details. Hard-
wood & stained glass. Diane Earl McCan x1351

MONTCLAIR \$550,000
Delightful Tudor w/many recent up-
dates while maintaining it's old
charm. 2+BR/1BA. Enchanting
Nancy Moore x1302



REDWOOD HEIGHTS \$549,000
3BR traditional on cul-de-sac. Bu-
tiful gourmet kitchen. Close access
to schools. Diane Earl McCan x1351

LAKE MERRITT \$499,000
Absolutely fabulous 3BR/2BA home
with top-of-the-world Bay views,
kitchen. Decks. Joan Dark x1351



ALBANY \$395,000
Dramatic townhouse on Albany Hill
w/decks, 2+BR/2.5BA, study, Cathedra-
l ing, 2-car gar. Bob & Carolyn Nelson x1351



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SAN LEANDRO \$399,000
Incredibly charming 2+BR/1BA home
room, Formal dining, breakfast room
of light! Garage w/loft area & back
landscaping. Michelle Miller x1366

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PAGE B7
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See COSTS, Page B18

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6400 Longcroft Drive, Oakland

Sleek four year old Montclair contemporary with pizzazz!
Adjacent lot available for \$35,000 • 4 bedrooms/3.5 baths
kitchen/family room combo • Formal living room
Dining area • Loft

Offered at \$795,000



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A beautiful & very desirable
property for those who expect
more and are difficult to satisfy.
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OAKLAND \$350,000
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Opportunity Knocks Today!
Near Home Depot
Needs TLC. 4 Units Vacant!
Live in 1 unit and rent other
3 to help pay mortgage!!
Seller may carry loan!

BERKELEY \$475,000
Circa 1903 Victorian TRIPLEX w/ 1-2BD
upstairs and 2 studios downstairs.
Needs TLC. Close to the 4th St.
Shops, Gourmet Ghetto.
ALL 3 units are VACANT!!!

UNION CITY \$499,000
Spacious 4BD house in
desirable location.
Property shows extremely well!
Lots of fresh updates.
Call today on this jewel!

ADDITIONAL PROPERTIES AVAILABLE - CALL TODAY!!!

BERKELEY \$4,200,000
24+ UNITS IN NORTH BERKELEY/ North Berkeley 3 building complex.
Minutes by walking to BART. MAKE AN OFFER!
All offers considered! BE CREATIVE. Call!

BERKELEY \$749,000
6 Units in 2 Buildings. Nice unit mix. Good sized lot. Some separate utility meters.
Nearby to Ashby BART & Berkeley's Historic Loth District
CALL TODAY!

BERKELEY \$540,000
NORTH BERKELEY LUXE/ INCOME. TRIPLEX in two separate buildings. Prime location
facing two streets. Duplex and detached cottage.
Monteith Market/ Acme Bakery/ Westcoast. Ideal deal for Owner occupants. Call today!

BERKELEY \$1,000,000
BERKELEY 6-UNIT APARTMENT! 6-2BD Units. ALL VACANT!
Owner recently completed lots of remodel type work. Property shows
extremely well. A real charmer. Call us today for information on this 6 x 2 beauty!

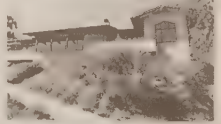
HAYWARD \$480,000
4BD/3BA home, 2-car garage. Near BART, shopping, schools.
Approx. 12 years young. A real pride of ownership home shows
excellent! Call today.

NORTH OAKLAND \$850,000
Commercial w/ 4 retail stores. large corner lot w/ high VISIBILITY
& high TRAFFIC count. Currently, Caffe - Cleaners - Beauty Salon - Computer tech.
Plenty of off street parking. Call on this wonder!

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1710 Arlington Blvd., El Cerrito
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New Listing! Exceptional home with an expansive Bay view. 4+ bedrooms,
2 full and 2 half baths. Lovely living room, large formal dining room, library,
office, 3 fireplaces and a private backyard that backs up to the Mira Vista
Country Club golf course. Over 3,000 sq. ft.
Jane Allen 524-9888 x23 \$695,000



1044 Keith Ave., Berkeley
By Appointment
Enormously spacious treehouse in the Berkeley hills. 3 bdms, 2 baths up
and lower level with 2 bedrooms, family room, and third bath. Great
separation of space. Floor to ceiling windows in living room. Well
maintained but needs work. Worth the effort!
Barbara Conheim 524-9888 x28, \$495,000



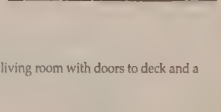
18 Veteran Way, Oakland
Open Sunday, 2:00 - 4:30
Gorgeous "Storybook-style" home on charming cul-de-sac. Two bdms, 1.5
baths. Lovely living room with vaulted ceiling and parquet oak floors,
formal dining room/office/3rd bedroom, breakfast room, remodeled
kitchen and baths. Many beautiful Arts & Crafts details and quality
upgrades. Large backyard. A work of art.
Peter Damm 524-9888 x13, \$550,000



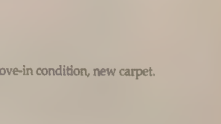
2632 Warring St., #2, Berkeley
Open Sunday, 2:00 - 4:00
New Price! Enjoy peaceful sylvan views from this clean 2-bedroom unit.
New berber, new paint, new stove. Bright balcony. Two parking spaces!
Ideal location for campus, Elmwood shops and transportation. HOA dues
include earthquake insurance.
Arlene Baxter 524-9888 x19, \$333,000



6885 Chabot, Rockridge
Open Sunday, 2:00 - 4:30
New Listing! Spacious, sunny, one-level home located on a very large lot. Large living room with doors to deck and a
lovely secluded garden. Dining area. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Fabulous location!
Maya Trilling 524-9888 x18 \$595,000



629 Jackson #A., Albany
Open Sunday, 2:00 - 4:00
New Listing! Albany Hill Condo. View! Deck! Light-filled 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Move-in condition, new carpet.
Refrigerator, stove, washer, dryer included. Close to transportation and shops.
Gay Austin and Kay Kruse 524-9888 x51, \$389,000



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NEW LISTING



6866 Charing Cross Road, Claremont Hills

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. Dramatic interior filled with light. Open living and dining room with hill views. Five bedrooms, four and one half baths including private master. Family room adjacent to kitchen. Media room, level garden and more!

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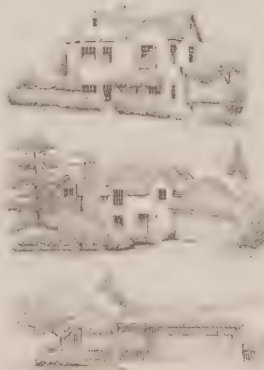
842 Wildwood Avenue
Originally offered at \$895,000
Represented the Seller

69 Wildwood Gardens
Originally offered at \$1,349,000
Represented the Seller

120 Bell Avenue
Originally offered at \$1,450,000
Represented the Buyer



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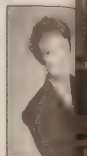
146 Las Vegas Road, Orinda

Beautifully maintained home in Orinda Country Club area on .39 ac. 3 bedroom, 3 full bath and guest house with full bath. Large sparkling rooms with French doors, well landscaped yard and patio, kitchen/family combo. Luxurious master suite and bath with fireplace. (Parking on 12 El Verano also)

\$1,495,000



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69 Wildwood Gardens, Piedmont
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I represented the Buyer of this view home



5317-19 Broadway, Rockridge
Originally offered at \$695,000
I represented the Seller of this duplex



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226 San Carlos Ave.,
Piedmont

Classic brown shingle (circa 1913) with beautiful kitchen/family room level out to deck and garden. Rich period details. Three + bedrooms, two and one half baths, close to Dracena Park and San Francisco transportation.

Originally offered at \$1,225,000
Represented the Buyer



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*5.53% estimated annual percentage rate is based on \$322,700 loan amount and includes points. Applicable closing costs will apply. Loan term is for 15 years and maximum loan-to-value of 80%. Estimated payment on maximum conforming loan amount of \$322,700 is approximately \$2,637, minimum loan amount \$100,000. Homeowners insurance is required.
**6.269% estimated annual percentage rate is based on \$322,700 loan amount and includes points. Applicable closing costs will apply. Loan term is for 30 years and maximum loan-to-value of 80%. Estimated payment on maximum conforming loan amount of \$322,700 is approximately \$1,987, minimum loan amount \$100,000. Homeowners insurance is required.
***6.638% estimated annual percentage rate is based on \$600,000 and includes points. Applicable closing costs will apply. Loan term is for 30 years and subject to maximum loan-to-value of 80%. Estimated payment is \$3,201. Homeowners insurance is required.
Above programs are based on primary, single family residences, townhouses, and condominiums only. No prepayment penalty required. Cash out allowed up to 75% of restrictions may apply. All credit applications are subject to credit qualifications and underwriting requirements. Rates as of July 30th, 2003 are subject to change without notice.

New Claremont Listing!



142 Hillcrest Road • Open Sunday 2:00-5:00

An open, airy one-level home on a million dollar street! The home features a park-like level garden and a large deck in a park-like setting. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths.

\$699,000



Julie Lehman, Listing Agent
510-986-9556



Vacation @ home in stunning 1-story, level-in 4 bedroom 2 full and 2 half baths contemporary set in a lush, serene Orinda Country Club area. Cozy 5th bd/office suite has a fireplace, bar & bath. Walls of glass wrap around a large courtyard, gardens and pool. Elegant light-filled rooms are A MUST SEE!

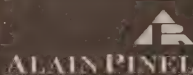
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
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Couple wants to buy before they sell

Q. My wife and I are senior citizens. We want to sell our home and relocate near our children and grandchildren in Plano, Texas. Before putting our house up for sale in Indiana, we want to have purchased a house in Texas to ensure having a place to move to in case we make a quick sale.

We will use the proceeds from the sale to pay for the house in Texas. But, of course, we won't have the money yet for the purchase. We could get into our savings to pay for the new home but that would incur expenses when selling funds and then later repurchasing them. Is there a solution to our dilemma?

—Charles Sherill, Lafayette, Ind.
A. The only other alternative would be to borrow against your current home with a sort term mortgage. This, of course, means incurring interest costs. You may also wish to speak with a local banker to see if they would be willing to give you an unsecured loan sufficient for a down payment on the new property.

Q. A few months back you printed an article regarding a homeowner who wasn't pleased with their real estate agent/broker and they wanted to know if they could get out of the contract with him. From what I recall your answer was "yes," although any fees for work performed may be due to the agent as well as commission if the buyer was someone that the agent showed the house to.

I'm in somewhat the same position where we are not satisfied with our agent and want to get out

of the contract but wanted to find the article.

—Diane Barbagallo
A. A seller may cancel their listing agreement at any time. They may, however, be liable to the broker for any costs incurred in attempting to sell the property. Additionally, the broker may provide a "protected" list of potential buyers to whom they have shown the property. If the property is sold to someone on the protected list a commission would be owed to the broker as they would have been the procuring cause of sale.

Q. Could you please explain second mortgages and how they work?

—Mary Ann DiPasquale, Pittsburgh
A. When an individual borrows money using their home as collateral, a note and mortgage are signed and recorded. If they borrowed money several times from different lenders, the note and mortgage instruments would most likely be identical. The determination of which mortgage is the first, second or third mortgage is determined by the date they are recorded for the public record.

"The first in time is the first in line." Other than priority in the event of default and foreclosure, second and subsequent mortgages are riskier for the lender and typically have a higher interest rate and shorter amortization period.

Q. After years of renting out property as a sole proprietor, I was advised by my real estate agent to form an LLC. A store that had been vacant for a year or so was rented to

a new tenant, so before we signed the lease, we formed an LLC.

I have four other pieces of residential real estate, and 40 acres of growing timber that are ready to go into the LLC; however, I am having second thoughts. My accountant says that I am creating a nightmare. From tax implications and record-keeping standpoint, this is not to my benefit.

The attorneys and real estate agents are for the LLC. The accountants and tax advisors are not. Most of my assets are in real estate. What are the pro and cons of an LLC for an ordinary person? My total worth is just over a million. I'm not a real estate tycoon, and I hate paperwork.

—Marilyn Creamer
A. Personally I do not see an advantage to establishing a Limited Liability Corporation. However, you should listen to your advisors. Ask

See KARVEL, Page B18



GEORGE KARVEL
Real Estate Q&A

To contact the real estate editor, call 510-748-1655 or e-mail devanosky@cctimes.com.

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Costs

FROM PAGE B33

copy to make sure there are no errors or inquiries that create the "tainted house" scenario. Homebuyers are now advised to request the CLUE report from the seller or their real estate agent before they make an offer on the property.

—Inquire carefully. The mere inquiry about how a claim would be handled can become a problem for an unwary homeowner. In certain states, calling your insurance company to inquire about a potential claim can be added to a loss report for the property.

—Maintain before repairs. Losses due to water damage are of particular concern to insurers because they are expensive to repair and can create other losses such as mold infestation. Some insurance providers have reported that while the number of water damage related claims has risen only slightly since 1997, the cost of repairs has

more than doubled. Inspect all household fixtures that connect to a water source for leaks, such as toilets, dishwashers, clothes washers and refrigerators. Inspect for signs of seepage and replace older seals and hoses before they become a problem.

—When all else fails, if the major carriers have rejected you for coverage your only option may be your state's high-risk pool or surplus-lines insurance company. Fair Access to Insurance Requirements, or FAIR Plans, are high-risk insurance pools provided in 32 states. In other states, surplus-line carriers provide coverage for higher risk properties, although at significantly higher premiums with higher deductibles.

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5901 Alta Pkwy (Open Sun 2-4) 3 BR 1.5 BA, 1 car attached garage w/int. access, redwood deck with charming yard, remodeled eat-in kitchen, beautiful hardwood floors. www.carladelazoppa.com 510-662-8558 \$439,950

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403 McLaughlin (Open Sun 2-4) 2+ BR 1 BA, formal dining room, hardwood floors, large yard, fireplace, large kitchen. Reports available. www.geristem.com 510-662-8469 \$199,950

SECLUDED WOODY COMPOUND
6150 Dimm Way, 2 BR 1.5 BA, Refurbished home on 17,000 sq. ft. lot at the end of a dirt road at Dimm Way, plus 3 adjoining lots. Commercial use is "grandfathered" in. Several shop buildings on property. #03012479 www.cynthiaburke.com 510-662-8528 \$748,988

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You'll enjoy the classic detail of this gorgeous 3 BR 3.5 BA home w/Master Suite. Extra office/den, vaulted ceilings, hardwood floors. Gourmet kitchen w/Cherry cabinets, family rm, living room w/fireplace, 2 car attached garage. #03012603 Paul Triplett 510-662-8533 \$1,189,000

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Western Capital Mortgage 888-560-2923 DRE# 01080499 Fees=\$1630	30-yr Fixed 5.750% .0000 5.840% .30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.750% .0000 5.940% .30	15-yr Fixed 4.875% .1375 5.020% .30	15-yr Fxd Jumbo 4.875% .0875 5.380% .30	Call for No Closing Cost Loan Rates Visit us at www.lowestrates.com *Posted Rates Are For Purchases
A American Resid. Lend. 800-566-8470 DRE# 4130340 Fees=\$1624	30-yr Fixed 6.000% .0000 6.101% .45	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 6.250% .0000 6.294% .45	15-yr Fixed 5.250% .0000 5.415% .45	Cofl ARM 1.950% .0000 1.990% .45	Ref. purchase or consolidate now! Free Approval No Doc Loans M-F 7:00-9:00 Sat-Sun 7:00-9:00
A Better Mortgage 800-711-0027 DRE# 0162773 Fees=\$1999	30-yr Fixed 5.875% .1000 6.030% .30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 6.250% .1000 6.440% .30	15-yr Fixed 5.125% .1000 5.380% .30	5/1 ARM Jumbo call . . .	Credit problems OK. Open weekends 2nd mortgages/Equity lines available www.westcoastfinancial.net
A Superior Mortgage 800-591-4446 DRE# 01351704 Fees=\$1889	30-yr Fixed 6.000% .0000 6.180% .30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 6.625% .0000 6.810% .30	15-yr Fixed 5.250% .0000 5.430% .30	10/1 ARM 5.250% .0000 5.410% .30	Open weekends. Credit problems OK "Apply online" Se Habla Espanol www.superior-mtg.net
A-Olympic Funding-Best Rate 800-640-5588 DRE# 01197415 Fees=\$1820	30-yr Fixed 5.875% .2000 5.821% .30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.750% .2000 5.922% .30	15-yr Fixed 4.750% .2000 4.913% .30	10-yr Int Only 3.250% .0000 3.441% .30	Open 7 days 9A-9P www.ofrloans.com E Bay Offices 800-765-7909 Hablamos Espanol ONLY call 877-227-2642
AAA Mortgage 888-821-6200 DRE# 01095146 Fees=\$1599	30-yr Fixed 5.875% .0000 5.960% .45	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 6.250% .0000 6.450% .45	10/1 ARM Jumbo 4.875% .1000 4.988% .45	5/1 ARM 4.000% .1000 4.164% .45	Zero Cost Loans Available NO Prepay Penalties on ARM'S Open 24/7 www.aaalender.com
AccessBanc Mortgage 800-661-2765 DRE# 00892894 Fees=\$1430	30-yr Fixed 6.125% .0000 6.187% .30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 6.250% .0000 6.281% .30	Jumbo Special* call . . .	Jumbo Special* call . . .	3 yr/fxr ARM 3.750%, 3.501 APR; 0/0 Fee 5 yr/fxr ARM 4.375%, 3.646 APR; 0/0 Fee Prepay & other restrictions may apply
Bank of America 877-88-FIXED Fees=\$1606	30-yr Fixed 5.375% .1000 5.530% .60	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.500% .1000 6.382% .30	3/1 ARM 4.250% .1000 3.794% .30	5/1 ARM 5.000% .1000 4.166% .30	0 Down, First Time Buyers, Purchase, Refinance - Fast Purchase Closings "AHC Program - Reservations Apply
Cal-State Funding 800-883-5363 DRE# 00874441 Fees=\$2010	30-yr Fixed 6.000% .1000 6.090% .45	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 6.250% .1000 6.340% .45	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.625% .1000 4.710% .45	3/1 ARM Jumbo 3.750% .1000 3.840% .45	CAL-STATE Funding CAN fund your loan Rates change daily, call for latest rate! We are here to satisfy your needs.
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CMG Mortgage Services 800-958-5339 DRE# 01170028 Fees=\$1433	30-yr Fixed 5.875% .1250 6.057% .30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 6.125% .1500 6.296% .45	3/1 ARM Jumbo 3.250% .1250 3.374% .30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.375% .1375 4.518% .30	Open Sat & Sun. Quick Qualifier & stated income - Fast Purchase Closings people with less than perfect credit
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Downey Savings & Loan 800-798-2148 DRE# 0037471 Fees=\$1428	30-yr Fixed 5.875% .1625 6.059% .60	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 6.375% .1375 6.522% .60	1-mo COFI ARM* 2.450% .0000 4.714% .45	call . . .	Direct lender. 45 yrs experience; fixed & adjust rate mtgs. *Not neg. amort Apply online at www.downeysavings.com
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Mortgage Market 800-837-5628 DRE# 00875562 Fees=\$1875	30-yr Fixed 6.125% .0000 6.160% .30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 6.625% .0000 6.630% .30	15-yr Fixed 5.500% .0000 5.590% .30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 5.000% .0000 5.088% .30	Credit problems, bankruptcy, difficult loans our specialty, all gov't loans, 100% loans, credit lines, construction
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Premier Mortgage Group 888-389-6633 DRE# 0130396 Fees=\$1992	30-yr Fixed 6.000% .0000 6.046% .30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 6.250% .0000 6.273% .30	7/1 ARM 4.625% .0000 4.332% .30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.500% .0000 4.198% .30	Get rates online at www.pmgmortgage.com Now open Saturdays 9-3, evenings until 8:00 pm. Purchases may be 1/8% lower.
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Karvel

FROM PAGE B16

them to explain the benefits and pitfalls and make the best decision you can. Rarely are choices clear. Everything has its advantages and disadvantages. Based on the best advice, make the choice that is best for you.

Q. My husband inherited the ground (approximately 20 feet by 90 feet) under a row home located in northeast Baltimore. Since 1985 he has collected \$90 per year from the woman who owns the dwelling on top of this piece of property.

This woman is in her 80s and on a fixed income so we never looked into raising the yearly rent. However, this inheritance came from my

mother-in-law, who inherited it from her father when he passed away.

To my knowledge this ground rent fee has not changed since the passing of my husband's grandfather in the 1960s. What is the going rate for ground rent in the northeast section of Baltimore these days?

Also, when this woman dies and

See KARVEL, Page B22

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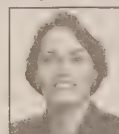
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489 Clara St. 2BD/1BA 510-292-2009 Leticia Chand	1076 Alleen St. 3BD/1BA 510-339-9290 Brian Santoro Sun. 2-4:30 Montclair Better Homes	658 Hillgirt Circle 5BD/4BA 510-851-9888 Wendy T. Louie Open Sun 2-5 Prudential	2309 Bywood Dr. 4BD/3BA 510-339-4700 Donna Conroy Sun. 2-5 Coldwell Banker	16 Oak Court 5BD/4BA 925-253-4601/510-547-1615 Jerilyn Babington Open Sun 1-5 Coldwell Banker
1476 81st Ave. 3BD/2BA 510-530-6330 Howard Kane	1508 Magnolia St. 5BD/2BA 510-530-6330 Howard Kane Sun. 1-4pm Assist-2-Sell	150 Moss Way 5 Units 510-834-2300 Tom Anthony Sun. 2-4:30pm Anthony Associates	401 Scenic 3BD/2.5BA 510-339-4700 Darcy Diamante Sun. 2-5 Coldwell Banker	6 Greenbank Ave. 3BD/2BA 510-339-4550 Montclair Better Homes Sun. 2-4:30 The Grubb Co.
6211 Telegraph Ave #23 2BD/1.5BA 510-868-1419 Jürgen Aust	3820 Enos 2+BD/1BA 510-338-1309 Lee Jacobson Sun. 2-4:30 Pacific Union Real Estate	1729 4th Ave 4pl 510-834-2010 CP Yang Open Sun 1-4 Prudential	873 Rosemount Rd. 4+BD/3.5BA 510-338-1366 Joanna Hirsch Sun. 2-5 Pacific Union Real Estate	577 Boulevard Way 3BD/1.5BA 510-339-0400 Katherine Cooper Sun. 2-4:30 The Grubb Co.
400 Wayne Ave. #3 2BD/1BA 510-531-7000 x238 Patsy Buhler Bennett Realtors	3890 Whittle Ave. 2BD/1BA 510-339-0400 Anne Feste Sun. 2-4:30 The Grubb Co.	5575 Florence Terrace 3+BD/2BA 510-338-1314 Sandi Klemmer Sun. 2-4:30 Pacific Union Real Estate	5555 Moraga Ave 4BD/4BA 510-845-0211 Barbara Hopper Open Sun Prudential	121 Hagar Ave. 4BD/3.5BA 510-339-0400 Mindy Scott Sun. 2-4:30 The Grubb Co.
1921 - 103rd Ave 3BD/1BA 510-430-0303 Carolyn Mettelmann R.E. Network	4007 Maybelle Ave 3BD/1BA 510-339-9290 Mary Dresser Open Sun 2-4:30 Prudential	2181 Andrews St. 3BD/2BA 510-339-8900 Dione Cota Sun. 1-5 Montclair C21 Heritage Real Estate	6501 Aitken Drive 6BD/6BA 510-339-8900 Don Petty Sun. 1-5 Century 21 Heritage Real Estate	330 San Carlos Ave. 3BD/2.5BA 510-339-0400 Sandra Vogl Sun. 2-4:30 The Grubb Co.
2321 Harrington Ave 2BD/1BA 510-428- Hernan Luna	6008 Harmon Ave. Studio, 3-1BD 510-251-6000 Tony Wright Sat. 12-4pm Help-U-Sell, East Bay	2555 El Caminito 3bd/2.5ba 925-736-6000 Pat Herrera Open 1-4 Blackhawk RE	35 Agnes 4BD/3BA 510-338-1302 Barbara McQuaid Open Sun 2-4:30 Prudential	3218 Pinole Valley Rd. 3BD/2BA 510-280-2158 Jose Fernandez Sun. 1-4 RED OAK
280 Caldecott Ln 1BD/1BA 510-428-0211 Lisa Friedman	3825 39th Ave. 4BD/2.5BA 510-292-2013 Todd Andrew Open Sun 2-4 RED OAK	724 Arimo Ave 4+BD/2BA 510-523-2378 Donnaluci Williams Open Sat & Sun 2-4 Harbor Bay Realty	654 Longridge 4+BD/2.5BA 510-338-1334 Vicki Woodhead Sun. 2-4:30 Pacific Union Real Estate	826 Antonia Circle 3BD/2.5BA 510-559-2912 Lloyd Jung Sun. 2-4 Marvin Gardens Real Estate
360 Vernon St. #209 2BD/1BA 510-531-7000 x238 Patsy Buhler Bennett Realtors	2016 E 29th St 1BD/1BA 510-466-5227 Louis Walker Open Sun 2-4 Prudential	6679 Charing Cross Rd 3BD/2.5BA 510-595-7699 Dave Higgins Open Sun 2-5 Hiller Highlands Re/Max East Bay Hills	6033 Fairlane 4+BD/3+BA 510-339-0400 Nancy Moore Sun. 2-4:30 Pacific Union Real Estate	3411 Savage 5BD/3BA 510-757-5379 Bing Pierce Open Sun 1-4 Security Pacific
4015 Carrington St. 2BD/1BA 510-530-6330 Howard Kane	1434 34th St. 3BD/2BA 510-339-0400 Debbi Dimaggio Sun. 2-4:30 The Grubb Co.	901 Alma Pl. 3+BD/1+BA 510-338-1379 Steven Blasatti Sun. 2-4:30 Pacific Union Real Estate	#2 Neva Ct 3+BD/2.5BA 510-339-9290 George Milliron Open Sun 2-4:30 Prudential	1690 Merian Dr. 3BD 925-407-0606 Pete Sabine Sun. 1:30-4 Re/Max C.C. Connection
1002 Wood St. 2BD/1BA 510-339-8900 x262 Sheila Brox Crawford Heritage Real Estate/Sheila Brox Crawford	5615 Carberry Ave 4BD/2BA 510-845-0211 L. Castillo Open Sun 2-4:30 Prudential	8825 Skyline 3+BD/3BA 510-338-1358 Joan Hauser Sun. 2-4:30 Pacific Union Real Estate	5046 Cochrane Avenue 3BD/3BA 510-339-4700 Donald Coelho Sun. 2-5 Coldwell Banker	517 Masefield Drive 4BD/2BA 925-407-0606 Pete Sabine Sun. 1-4 RE/MAX C.C. Connection
9840 Lawlor 2BD/1BA 510-339-8900 Cindy Boze Knowland Park Real Estate	4326 Tompkins Ave 2BD/2BA 510-748-1101 Ruth Masonek Open Sun 2-4 Gallagher & Lindsey	37 Eucalyptus Path 4BD/2.5BA 510-652-2133 Diane Verducci Sun. 2-4:30 The Grubb Co.	7 White Ct 5BD/3.5BA 510-339-9290 Heidi Marchesotti Open Sun 2-4:30 Prudential	403 McLaughlin 2+BD/1BA 510-662-8469 Geri Stern Open Sun 2-4 Security Pacific
4133 Maybelline Ave 1BD/1BA 510-834-2010 John Bell	1486 Altman St. 2BD/1BA 510-339-4000 Ken Nwokedi Sun. 2-4:30 Montclair Better Homes	One Abbott Drive 3BD/2BA 510-339-9778 Hal Castle Sun. 1:30-4:30 C21 Heritage Real Estate	2091 Tunnel 3BD/2.5BA 510-338-1318 Dee Knowland Sun. 2-4:30 Pacific Union Real Estate	658 32nd Street 2BD/1BA 510-525-2727 Nick Lavrov Open 2-5 C21 Heritage
9412 Golf Links Rd. 2BD/1BA 510-412-6489 Virginia McNeill, Agt. Sales	3635 Brunell Dr. 3BD/1.5BA 510-339-0400 S. Michaelides & J. Simmons Sun. 2-4:30 The Grubb Co.	1087 Ardmore Ave 3+BD/3BA 510-834-2010 Jackie Care Sun. 2-5 Crockers Highlands Prudential	7080 Westmoorland Dr. 4+BD/4.5BA 510-339-0400 Debra J. Dryden Sun. 2-4:30 The Grubb Co.	5908 Sutter Ave. 3BD/1BA 510-292-3056/3042 Anita & Alice Wilson Sun. 2-4 Marvin Gardens Real Estate
6236 Laird Ave. 3BD/1BA 510-251-6000 Tony Wright Eastbay	3978 Lyman Rd. 2BD/1BA 510-338-1337 Bonnie Hirsch Sun. 2-4:30 Pacific Union Real Estate	673 Arimo 3+BD/3BA 510-339-4700 Ruby Ng/Karen Sun. 2-5 Coldwell Banker	3220 Robinson Dr. 3BD/3BA 510-339-4280 Mary Jane McCosken Sun. 2-4:30 Montclair Better Homes	3640 Park Ridge 4BD/2.5BA 510-292-3041 C. Elliot & M. Rhodes Sun. 2-5 Marvin Gardens Real Estate
847 42nd St. 2BD/1BA 925-899-6183 Dave Marron	651 Mariposa Ave. 3BD/1+BA 510-384-9279 Agent Open Sunday 2-4:30	16 Treasure Hill 2BD/2+BA 510-843-1622 or 510-655-1513 Point Realty Sun. 1-4 Katherine Grubb	6121 Ocean View Dr. 3BD/3BA 510-849-9900 Heather Siltky Sun. 1-4 Maison Nouveau	1621 - 151st Ave 2BD/1BA 510-339-4700 Lidia Nayo Sun. 2-5 Coldwell Banker
2558 55th Avenue 3BD/2BA 510-339-8900 Sheila Brox Crawford Mills College Real Estate	1126 Bella Vista 4+BD/2BA 510-428- 0900 Scott Thompson Open Sun 2-5 Prudential son	4425 Arcadia Ave. 4BD/3.5BA 510-339-0400 Sheila Gallagher Sun. 2-4:30 The Grubb Co.	3509 Klamath 4BD/3.5BA 510-339-4700 Joan Alford Sun. 2-5 Coldwell Banker	565 Juana Ave. 2+BD/1+BA 510-338-1335 Michelle Miller Sun. 1-4 Pacific Union Real Estate
400 Wayne Ave. #6 2BD/2BA 510-531-7000 x238 Patsy Buhler Bennett Realtors	4314-16 Shafter Ave. Dup. 510-531-7000 x239 Don Dunning Sun. 2-4:30 Wells & Bennett Realtors	6400 Longcroft 4+BD/3+BA 510-338-1370 Charlotte Boyle Sun. 2-4:30 Pacific Union Real Estate	195 Roble Rd 3+BD/2.5BA 510-845-0211 Ford/Plowright Open Sun 2-5 Pacific Union Real Estate	15208 Norton St 5BD/2.5BA 510-430-0303 Carolyn Mettelmann Open Sun 2-4:30 East Bay R.E. Network
1426 MacArthur Blvd 2+BD/1BA 510-814-4835 Elaine Budka Loft 510-292-2015 Hila Azimzal Realty	2134 Linden Street 2+BD/3BA 510-339-4700 Reva Tolbert Sun. 2-4:30 Coldwell Banker	455 Hudson St. 4BD/2BA 415-923-6999x5 Shirley Golub Sun. 2-5pm G.M. Green & Assoc., Inc.	6193 Ruthland Road 4BD/3.5BA 510-339-4550 Nahid Nassiri Sun. 2-4:30 Montclair Better Homes Montclair	3160 Larchmont Ln 3BD/2.5BA 510-845-0211 Aliky Vasdekis Open Sun 1-4 Prudential
2932 Filbert, #2 510-292-2015 Hila Azimzal	4724 Davenport Ave 4BD/2BA 510-482-6391 Howard Ryu Open Sun 1-5 R.E. Agent	545 Mira Vista Ave 5+BD/2BA 510-845-0211 Adrianne Nash Open Sun 2-5 Grand Lake Rose Garden	1278 Sunnyside Road 3BD/2BA 510-339-4700 Ellen Lancaster Sun. 2-5 Crockers Highlands Coldwell Banker	Alameda County
3674 Green Acre Rd 3BD/2BA 510-339-9290 Ed Marshall Montclair	77 Clarewood Ln. 3BD/2.5BA 510-339-0400 Anian Pettit Tunney Sun. 2-4:30 The Grubb Co.	6969 Snake Road 3BD/2BA 510-303-8301 Laurel Strand Sun. 10-2 Coldwell Banker	41 Evergreen Lane 3BD/2.5BA 510-339-4700 David Eckert Sun. 2-4:30 Claremont Heights Coldwell Banker	387 Driftwood Ln 2BD/1.5BA 510-834-2010 Jacqueline Palacios Open Sun 1-5 Prudential
3772 Buell St 2+BD/1BA 510-428-0900 Bryan Salomone Laurel District	3933 Cerrito Ave. 2BD/2BA 510-547-5970 x55 Ron Kriss Sun. 1-5pm Lawton Associates	812 Northvale Rd 4+BD/3.5BA 510-834-2010 Dolores Thom Open Sun 2-5 Crockers Highlands Prudential	711 Grizzly Terrace Dr. 4BD/3.5BA 415-296-2108 Robin Dustan Sun. 2:30-5pm McGuire Real Estate	San Francisco County
7901 Winthrop St 2+BD/1BA 510-339-9290 Erik Johnson Montclair	4134 Gilbert St. 2+BD/1+BA 510-338-1337 Fritz Hochfelner Sun. 2-5 Piedmont Pacific Union Real Estate	4301 Bridgeview Dr. 4BD/2.5BA 510-886-5437 Oakmore Highlands Rod Andazola, Real Estate Broker Sun. 2-4:30	49 Evergreen Lane 4BD/2.5BA 510-339-4700 Joan Duffield Sun. 2-5 Claremont Heights Coldwell Banker	545 Leavenworth #7 Loft 415-309-1650 Andrea Gordon Sun. 2-4:30 Century 21 Heritage Real Estate
1971 89th Ave. 4BD/1.5BA 510-530-6330 Howard Kane	4629 Mountain Blvd 4BD/3.5BA 510-869-4248 Jennifer Montague Open Sun 1-4 Prudential CA Realty	8665 Skyline Blvd. 4BD/3.5BA 510-339-4550 Nahid Nassiri Sun. 2-4:30 Montclair Montclair Better Homes	7070 Norfolk Dr. 5BD/4.5BA 510-338-1357 Francis Heath Sun. 2-4:30 Pacific Union Real Estate	1401 14th Avenue 5BD/3BA 415-309-1650 Andrea Gordon Sun. 2-4 Century 21 Heritage Real Estate
2534 Frances St. 3BD/1.2BA 510-251-6000 Tony Wright Eastbay	475 Mountain Blvd. 2BD/2BA 510-339-4700 Ellen Lancaster Sun. 2-5 Coldwell Banker	492 Staten Avenue Suite 1401 2BD/2BA 925-708-2228 Joanne JJ Spear Open 2-4:30 Intero	11 Observation Pl. 3BD/2BA 510-338-1331 David Ichikawa Sun. 2-4:30 Pacific Union Real Estate	

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Celebrate 16 different Oakland neighborhoods, starting July 12! OHA offers a different tour schedule each summer, exploring the city's natural, social and cultural history, diverse neighborhoods and architectural styles.

Among the highlights:
— In Montclair Village learn about its colorful first settlers, the early toll road, and its unique architecture, including the fire station and women's club.

— Telegraph Avenue, one of Oakland's great streets, is reemerging as a vibrant commercial district and Korean community. The tour includes the old Sears building.

— On Piedmont Avenue the Key Route system brought in early development and displaced country estates and rose nurseries. Also, hear about memorable civic battles, and distinguished architecture.

— Get a local perspective on the Produce Market and Waterfront Warehouse District, currently on the National Register of Historic Places. An early industrial hub, the neighborhood has a fine collection of utilitarian buildings and architecture.

Other walks include: Hidden Haddon Hill, overlooking Lake Merritt; Oak Center, one of Oakland's oldest neighborhoods and its newest historic district; Oakland Airport North Field, one of the nation's most historic aviation sites; Upper Fruitvale and the Hacienda Peralta; Leona Heights; Splashpad and Grand Avenue;

Mills Gardens and Picardy Drive; Oakland's Cable Railroad; Modern Downtown Oakland, and Lakeshore/Trestle Glen.

See how Oakland's history makes it the hub of the East Bay—transportation and commercial center, port city, home to distinctive neighborhoods. Saturdays and Sundays in July and August from July 12 to Aug. 31 in 16 Oakland neighborhoods. \$10. To learn more, call (510) 763-9218 or email: info@oaklandheritage.org

Karvel

FROM PAGE B18

the property is sold or transferred what would the value of this piece of ground be worth and are we better served selling the piece of ground to its new owners?

We've asked other real estate agents to look into this but none seem interested.

—Terri Arnold, Crownsville, Md.

A. The value of your land, and its fair rent, depends on where the property is located. To determine the fair market value of the lot you will need to hire an appraiser. I would expect that an appraisal could be obtained for \$200-\$500. A fair rent annually would be 7 percent to 8 percent of the value.

George Karvel is holder of the Distinguished Chair in Real Estate at the University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, Minn. E-mail questions to: gkarvel@aol.com. Please include name, city and state.

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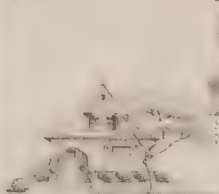
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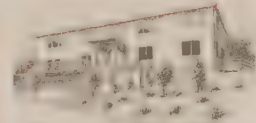
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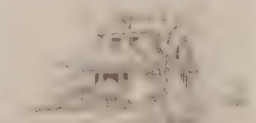


MONTCLAIR \$1,245,000
6193 Ruthland Road
Three master suites, 3 fireplaces, gorgeous finishes & rich materials throughout this 4 BR/3.5 Ba. Eastern Med. villa. Just completed! Includes open living area, FDR, balcony w/ SF view, lvl back yard.
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OAKLAND HILLS \$1,195,000
3220 Robinson Drive
Enjoy sweeping Bay views and soaring spaces in this stunningly crafted new villa offering 4++ Bedrooms, 4.5 baths, expansive gourmet kitchen + 950 sq. ft. master retreat.
Mary Jane McConville 510-339-4280

MONTCLAIR \$819,000
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PIEDMONT \$699,000
6 Greenbank Avenue
Charming 20's home with good bones, needs TLC. 3 BR/2 BA formal dining room, large family room, level back yard. Two car garage. Hills view. Close to Piedmont Ave. shops.
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ELMWOOD, BERKELEY \$499,000
3004 Dana Street
Not ready for suburbia? Looking for urban living at a reasonable cost? Sweet 2 bedroom, 2 bath home in Elmwood district with den & formal dining room for dinners with friends. Close to Whole Foods & shops.
Jennifer Arthur 510-339-4553

GLENVIEW \$475,000
1486 Allman Street
Beautiful Glenview craftsman. Completely remodeled. Great neighborhood. A must see!
Ken Nwokedi 510-339-4000

OAKLAND \$399,000
1076 Aileen Street
Fabulous 1914 Craftsman with original woodwork intact! Built-in cabinetry, formal dining, huge sun porch, fireplace, stained glass windows & in-law potential. A must see!
Lila Owens 510-339-4000

By Appointment

DANVILLE \$1,214,900
Single story, 3120 square feet, 4 bedrooms plus den, 3 full baths, marble entry, hardwood floors, beautiful white kitchen w/slab granite counters, Sub-Zero fridge, family room with built-in entertainment center, 3 fireplaces, magnificent master suite, end of court location. Hawkins pool, spa & waterfall.
Danville Better Homes 925-837-2200



UPPER ROCKRIDGE \$1,195,000
Perfectly planned 1994 Traditional. Quality materials & artisan touches, SF Bay views & wired for today's lifestyle. Home office & legal in-law, 2 car garage, 3 off street parking. 4BR/3.5 BA. Close to everything!
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ADAM'S POINT \$998,000
New listing! 8 units lovingly restored with many upgrades. Four 2 bedrooms, Four studios, Three garage parking. Close to transportation.
Teresa Chan 510-339-8400



MONTCLAIR \$899,000
Looking for privacy? Located on a quiet, tree lined street, this spotless, remodeled Contemporary features a huge chef's kitchen/fam. room, formal dining room, library, partial SF Bay view. Great natural light. Minutes from Village.
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DANVILLE \$889,000
Up a circular drive in a prime Westside neighborhood, this charming 4bd/3ba rancher sits among ancient oaks and backs to open space. Hardwood floors, walls of French doors leading to level yard w/pool & spa. No sign up yet. Call for appt.
Danville Better Homes 925-837-2200

DANVILLE \$839,950
Wonderful 5 bedroom, 3 bath, 2950 square foot traditional home with great floor plan. End of cul-de-sac location. Area of expensive homes, close to town.
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DANVILLE \$839,900
Reduced! Private court street lot, with views! Great, updated Conemara model with 2831 square feet, approximately. Slab granite, tile floors, newer carpeting & paint inside & out! Lush lawns, spa, 4 bedrooms + retreat off master suite, 3 baths, 3-car garage.
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BLACKHAWK \$699,000
Pristine view, rolling green lawns, private & spacious court yard entrance, soaring ceilings, hardwood floors, 3 bedrooms (one used as a den) 2 baths, light & bright kitchen.
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WALNUT CREEK \$650,000
Updated one-story, 2055 sq. ft., 4 bedroom/3 bath on 1/2 acre level lot on court includes: side entry garage, circular driveway, well, RV parking, new roof, paint, carpets, kitchen & more. Directions: Danville Blvd., Castle Hill Rd, left on Meadow Rd to...
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DANVILLE \$614,000
Inside or out! Elegant and professionally decorated 3BR featuring marble entry, hardwood floors, open tiled kitchen room combo with island-gas cook built-in speaker system, walk-in & fabulous views!
Danville Better Homes 925-837-2200

SAN RAMON \$559,000
Reduced! Gorgeous 2BR/2BA + 1/2 Mediterranean villa. Prestigious community with secluded patio setting. Private, spacious, lush with beautiful landscaping, ceilings, open floor plan, neutral light & bright.
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CONCORD \$495,000
Close to Walnut Creek/ Pleasanton border, only 7 years old, 3bd/2ba gourmet kitchen, family room, bright, volume ceilings, up throughout, private patio & balcony. Exquisite landscaping, end of location. Charming! Hurry!
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SAN LEANDRO \$425,000
Charming contemporary on 1/2 Good floor plan. Price in vacant parcel lot in rear of home.
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OAKLAND \$399,000
Great floor plan in contemporary home. Needs some TLC, but we look. Very motivated seller. offers!
Ken Nwokedi 510-339-4000

WEST OAKLAND \$325,000
Charming duplex in mint condition. Lots of upgrades. 2 BR/1 BA + 1 BA. Great cash flow. Vacant and for owner or tenants to move-in.
Arnold Mueller 510-339-4000

DIMOND \$275,000
Stalled rehab. project. Great opportunity. New roof & windows. Prepped foundation. Big rear yard.
Ken Nwokedi 510-339-4000

OAKLAND \$250,000
One of the best condo's around. bedroom/1 bath. Close to shopping freeway.
A.D. Nassiri/Pearl Wong 510-339-4000

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SPORTS

• Friday, August 1, 2003 •

Section C

The great American pastime, Far Eastern style

Solid fundamental play, Japanese rituals and love of the game are on display during the Friendship Games.

By Mike McGreehan
STAFF WRITER

Mix some art with athleticism, fresh air. Take a serious, messlike approach to fun and games. Now roll the whole thing into a mental and physical exercise. For decades now, baseball has gained itself into Japanese culture for a few days, that culture on display in Alameda as

two teams of 15-year-old baseball players from Fukuoka, Japan, visited the island city to take part in the Friendship Games. During that time, a small part of Alameda transformed into Kyushu — the island of southern Japan where Fukuoka (Oakland's sister city) is located — as players stayed with Alameda families.

Oh, and yes, they played some baseball, too, as the Japanese teams showed their mettle and the Alameda World Tournament team geared up for this month's 22nd annual World Tournament in São Paulo, Brazil.

"It seems like they're funda-

See WORLD, Page 2



ANDY LAWSON, who attends St. Mary's, is part of the Alameda team that will compete in the World Tournament.

Alameda earns world of experience vs. Japan

By Mike McGreehan
STAFF WRITER

The Alameda World Tournament Team will leave Aug. 6 for this year's World Tournament in São Paulo, Brazil. In the meantime, the team is looking to prepare itself the best it can.

On July 24, a pair of teams from Fukuoka, Japan, (Oakland's sister city) brought their own special brand of baseball to the College of Alameda.

In the first game, the Alameda World Tournament Team showed both its mettle and resolve in a 10-8 come-from-behind win over the North Fukuoka All-Stars.

The nightcap featured the South Fukuoka All-Stars and the Alameda Mariners. South Fukuoka had the final say, rallying for two runs in the bottom of the seventh inning for a 3-2 win.

See ALAMEDA, Page 2



ROBERT TRAUM is leaving Berkeley High School after 38 years of service. Besides serving as athletic director, he coached golf, crew, football and track.

Traum was truly a jack of all trades

The former Berkeley athletic director also coached a number of sports in his 38 years at the school.

By Phil Jensen
STAFF WRITER

Robert Traum just knew. There is a thing about Robert — you know when it's said the 61-year-old man. "When you know it's you know you've done what you can." Traum, who retired as athletic director of Berkeley High School in 1999, has done a lot for the school since he arrived as a student-athlete in 1965. He has been the school's athletic director four times and coached golf

and crew at different times in his career. He also was an assistant football and track and field coach in his career.

"It is my philosophy that the athletic program is the honors program of physical education," said Traum, who was also a physical education instructor during his career. "I look at the entire athletic program as a full picture. I do away with any concept of major or minor sports. It doesn't exist."

"He doesn't show favoritism toward anyone," said Berkeley girls basketball coach Gene Nakamura, who has coached at the school for 20 years. "He is a firm believer in women's sports and unknown sports. That's the thing about Robert — you know you're going to get a fair shake." Traum oversaw a program

that had 28 varsity teams and more than 80 coaching positions. Nine hundred and seventy-three students played sports at Berkeley last spring semester.

"This is the biggest athletic program in California for high schools," said Traum, who is now working as a consultant for Berkeley until it hires a new athletic director.

As athletic director, a regular school day would last from 12 to 15 hours for Traum.

"Fortunately, I have an understanding wife (Valerie)," Traum said.

Traum's career at Berkeley has been varied. Besides being intramural director in 1966, Traum was an assistant football coach, and was also an assistant track and field coach in the late

1960s. He then led the crew team from 1969 to 1989, and was also athletic director from the fall of 1977 through the spring of 1979.

His second stint as athletic director occurred from the fall of 1989 through the spring of 1991. He then coached golf for Berkeley through 1999 and was co-athletic director with Karen Smith from 1999-2000 before becoming sole athletic director in December 2000.

"He's dedicated, he's loyal, he's very thorough," Nakamura said. "He was The Rules Man. When anybody had a question about any type of (athletic) rule, and I'm talking about people all over the state, they would call Robert up. He has a wealth of knowledge."

Traum said that there has been four major changes in the structure of physical educa-

tion/athletics since he started teaching: the exchange of time off to stipends for coaches, Title IX, the involvement of the teachers' union, and the elimination of the four-year P.E. requirement.

Traum knew the area well before he started at Berkeley. The 1959 El Cerrito High School graduate earned a physical education degree from Cal in 1964. He also received a master's degree in the same subject in 1970 from San Francisco State.

Away from the school, Traum started as a basketball official in 1962 and continued until the mid-1990s. He remains involved in basketball officiating as an observer for Pac-10 women's basketball and the California Collegiate Athletic Association for both men and women.

In her perfect outing — the Sting's second game and its most difficult of the tournament — Murakami was forced to pitch into extra innings when her Tremblers counterpart held Sting batters to no runs for seven full innings.

Working out of trouble, the Tremblers allowed Sting runners into scoring position three times, but kept them there without damage. When the game remained scoreless after six innings, the teams played the seventh and eighth innings under the international tie-breaker rule, where a runner is placed at second base to start each inning.

After neither team scored in the seventh, the Sting got the one run it needed in the top of the eighth.

Cory Chin, the Sting runner placed on second, advanced to third on a ground out by Maddie Cousens, then scored moments later on a safety squeeze as Krista Smithers dropped a perfect bunt. When the throw went

See SOFTBALL, Page 2

Endfall for media

Millions of dollars will soon flow from TV and radio stations' coffers to pay for commercials on the state recall election. C3

New twist on 'Oliver'

The new Berkeley Musical Theater Company's inaugural production of 'Oliver' opened this week in Albany. Page C3

Many facets of Chagall

San Francisco Museum of Modern Art features a retrospective exhibit of 146 works by Marc Chagall. Page C3

Critics' views

Wondering if a film is worth seeing? Capsule reviews tell what the critics think about movies playing in area theaters. Page C4

Alameda

FROM PAGE 1

Slow start

North Fukuoka looked unbeatable in the first two innings against the Alameda World Tournament Team. The visitors featured six left-handed batters in their starting lineup, something rarely seen at youth levels. Those who love "small ball" surely would have appreciated the Japanese team's approach to the game, too.

Early on, at least, North Fukuoka did a marvelous job hitting to the opposite field and finding holes in the Alameda defense.

As the game progressed, the visitors started driving the ball more, finding gaps in the outfield. On a couple occasions, a North Fukuoka player drove a ball between fielders to the power alley in right-center field. On both occasions, the Japanese player used his speed to leg out a triple.

North Fukuoka scored two runs in the first inning, highlighted by opposite-field singles by lefties Shata Imamizu and Tatsushika Yamanaka. Both players eventually scored as North Fukuoka took a 2-0 lead.

Alameda batters, for their part, had trouble with North Fukuoka starting pitcher Naoto Shibata, who gave up just one hit in two innings — a leadoff double to Ruben Solis in the first inning.

North Fukuoka added three more runs with the help of three Alameda errors in the top of the second inning. Hiroyaki Uchida highlighted the inning with an RBI triple as North Fukuoka took a 5-0 lead.

The lead grew to 6-0 in the third when Kazuki Tensaki led off with a triple and eventually scored on Hayato Omari's fielder's choice.

North Fukuoka changed pitchers to start the bottom of the third, and Alameda took advantage by scoring four runs.

David Salas reached on an error to start the inning. Salas stole second base, moved to third on a single by Solis and eventually scored on another error.

After walks to Andy Lawson (of St. Mary's High School) and Nick Botello loaded the bases, Solis scored on a wild pitch. Michael Taylor and Mark Rowland both flied out, but back-to-back RBI singles by Stephen Barbosa and Ryan Zimmerman brought home Lawson and Botello to move Alameda within two runs at 6-4.

Alameda went ahead to stay with five runs in the fifth. After Taylor singled and Rowland reached on an error, Barbosa belted a two-run triple to tie the score at 6-6.

Barbosa got cut down at the plate on Zimmerman's fielder's choice, but John Meagher singled and Andy Lusk got hit by a pitch. Zimmerman, Meagher and Lusk all eventually scored on wild pitches as Alameda took a 9-6 advantage.

North Fukuoka made things close with two runs in the top of the sixth. But Alameda scored the game's final run in the bottom of the inning as Rowland was hit by a pitch, stole second and eventually came home on a pair of wild pitches.

"We started well, but we had to use all the players and had to change pitchers," North Fukuoka manager Mitsuyuki Fujimori said through interpreter Toshinori Yanagitsuru. "We couldn't use re-entry."

Lusk, the winning pitcher, was effective in relief for Alameda. Lusk threw three innings, retiring the side in order in the fourth

and giving up a harmless base-on-balls in a scoreless fifth. Lusk appeared to be tiring in North Fukuoka's two-run sixth, but he escaped with no further damage.

Reversal of fortune

In contrast to the Alameda World Tournament team, the Alameda Mariners took an early lead against South Fukuoka. But with one out in the bottom of the seventh inning, Takafumi Suezaki delivered the game-winning hit, a two-run walkoff single.

The Mariners got their only runs in the second inning. Jon Wilson led off with a double and scored when Scott Revey reached on an error. Revey stole third and came home with his team's final run when the throw went awry.

Again, those who love small ball — fundamental station-to-station, use-the-entire-field baseball — were in for a treat.

South Fukuoka cut the Mariners' lead to 2-1 in the fourth. Yuhei Yamamoto led off with a single and moved to second when Shin Uemura reached on an error. Yamamoto eventually stole third and came home on Yuki Kojiro's sacrifice fly.

In the seventh, Masataka Beppu singled and Seiya Nagamatsu doubled. With runners at second and third, Suezaki stroked his game-winning single.

"There weren't that many consecutive chances for hits and we're not a very good hitting team," South Fukuoka manager Kiyoshi Takayama said through Yanagitsuru's interpretation. "But when we get the chance, we take advantage of it."

Saturday's results

South Fukuoka 3, Alameda World 0: After a day off, the teams returned to the College of Alameda for a 10 a.m. game.

South Fukuoka played what could be best termed an "economical" game, making the most of six hits in the win.

The Japanese team broke a scoreless tie with two runs in the bottom of the third inning.

Koichi Akashi and Kazuma Mori both singled. Akashi was cut down at the plate trying to score on Masataka Beppu's grounder to short, but Shin Uemura singled home Mori with the first run. Beppu later went to third on a passed ball and continued home for a 2-0 lead when the throw went into the outfield.

South Fukuoka got its final run in the fifth as Yuhei Yamamoto singled, went to second on Seiya Nagamatsu's walk, advanced to third on a wild pitch, and scored on Uemura's sacrifice fly.

Alameda managed just five hits. John Meagher led off the game with a single in the first inning. Michael Taylor, Mark Rowland and Andy Lawson added singles in the fourth, sixth and seventh innings, respectively. Andy Lusk had a one-out double in the second.

Alameda had two sparkling defensive plays. Right fielder Graham Matthews made a nice running catch of a deep fly ball by Takuji Kono, retiring the side and saving a run in the bottom of the first. Matthews received a congratulatory tap of gloves from South Fukuoka center fielder Ryuya Yamamoto as the teams changed sides. In the fourth inning, center fielder Lusk made a nice diving catch of a shallow fly ball by Yasuo Furukawa.

Alameda World 4, North Fukuoka 1: Mark Rowland moved from shortstop to pitch four solid innings of relief in this afternoon game at the College of Alameda.

Like its South Fukuoka counterparts, the North Fukuoka team displayed a certain economy of play. For North Fukuoka, however, this meant swinging at a lot of first pitches, thus playing into

Alameda's hands.

Alameda opened the scoring with two runs in the bottom of the first inning. Zack Braband opened with a base hit and Andy Lawson followed with a bunt single. A passed ball and wild pitch scored Braband. Lawson scored on Rowland's sacrifice fly for a 2-0 lead.

Alameda added a run in the third when Lawson walked, advanced to third on a pair of wild pitches, and scored on Rowland's fielder's choice.

North Fukuoka started the fourth inning well as Kazuki Tensaki and Tatsuya Kimuto led off with back-to-back walks. At this point, Rowland replaced Lawson on the mound.

A base hit by Naoki Tanigawa brought Tensaki home, but Alameda avoided further damage.

The score remained 3-1 until Alameda added a run in the fifth behind doubles by Graham Matthews and Nick Botello, and Michael Taylor's RBI single.

North Fukuoka center fielder Hiroyaki Uchida had the game's defensive gem, a diving catch of Stephen Barbosa's shallow fly ball in the third.

OTHER RESULTS: Elsewhere, the North Fukuoka team was a 3-2 winner over the Fresno World Tournament Team in a Saturday morning game at Willie Stargell Field.

Later at College of Alameda, South Fukuoka beat Fresno 1-0.

Sunday's results

Alameda World 9, South Fukuoka 1: Alameda saved its best for last in this nine-inning game at the College of Alameda.

South Fukuoka scored one run in the top of the first inning, but Alameda responded with three in the bottom of the first and never looked back.

Stephen Barbosa pitched the first four innings, giving up the one run. He yielded two hits, both in that first inning. Barbosa also helped himself defensively by snaring a liner back to the box off the bat of Yasuo Furukawa in the second inning.

Third baseman Nick Botello also made a fine stab of a Ryuya Yamamoto line drive in the fourth inning. Botello moved to the mound the next three innings, holding South Fukuoka to just one hit.

Cody May pitched the final two innings for Alameda, striking out three. Graham Matthews played at catcher the entire nine innings.

Offensively, Botello had three singles and scored a run. Andy Lawson scored a run and drove in two more. Ryan Zimmerman singled and scored in the first inning.

Jesse Schmidt and Zack Braband both scored in the second inning as Alameda's lead grew to 5-1. Michael Taylor and Barbosa both walked and scored in the fifth. May and David Salas each crossed the plate to complete the scoring in the eighth.

In an earlier game at the College of Alameda, North Fukuoka opened a seven-run lead, then held on to beat Fresno 9-8. That game also went a scheduled nine innings.

World

FROM PAGE 1

mentally sound and they hustle all the time," Alameda World Tournament Team manager Carlos Macedo said of the Japanese players. "They play a little different style than American baseball, but these are the types of teams we'll be seeing in the World Tournament."

Surely, those who have grown impatient with the swing-from-the-heels style currently in vogue at many levels of North American baseball would have found the Japanese style most refreshing.

For the most part, both the North and South Fukuoka All-Star teams played a technically-sound, fundamental game. Some managers might liken it to National League baseball of days gone by. That is, batters used the whole field, hit well to the opposite field, found the gaps, bunted, moved the runners along and used their speed to stretch singles into doubles and doubles into triples. For the most part, though, it was station-to-station baseball. Manufacture some runs and make them hold up. And for the most part, the Japanese visitors played this style successfully.

"The American players have power; we didn't have much power, so we use other aspects of the game," South Fukuoka manager Kiyoshi Takayama said through interpreter Toshinori Yanagitsuru, the tour guide for the Japanese trip.

The South Fukuoka All-Stars were the more polished of the two visiting teams. Except for a 9-1 series-ending loss to the Alameda World Tournament team in a nine-inning game on Sunday, South Fukuoka — in its classy gray pinstriped uniforms — played almost flawless base-

ball. Perhaps by Sunday afternoon, South Fukuoka's pitching was spent and all the players were due for a bad game — hey, that happens to the best of teams — but the players kept up their chatter and spirits the whole game.

Actually, the baseball rituals for both Japanese teams were as interesting as the games themselves. While in the field, the players constantly chattered (South Fukuoka was the more loquacious of the two teams). Like workers in a field, the players' chants had a call-and-answer quality. From the announcer's booth at College of Alameda, South Fukuoka's chant seemed to start with the third baseman, then moved around the infield from left to right. The right fielder seemed pretty vocal, too.

"They're making sure who gets the ball in a double play," says Yanagitsuru, a 21-year resident of San Mateo who works for a San Francisco travel agency. "Other than that, they're just encouraging each other."

Another of the Japanese teams' colorful customs took place before they came to bat each inning. After running in from the field, the players formed a circle in front of the dugout, chattering up a storm all the while.

"The Japanese say, 'enjin,' which means circle," tour coordinator Toshi Imade said. "This helps gather the fighting spirit as the players use their big voices."

On the field, it was clear that baseball was fun for the Japanese players. Still, they took the game most seriously. Baseball, it seemed, was an extension of themselves, both in body and spirit. Though they were serious — and in spite of their age — the players seemed to have almost a professional mind-set toward the game. Surely, they brought dignity and class to the field.

Some of the players, for in-

stance, bowed to the home umpire before coming out keeping with the spirit of the games, too, both North and South Fukuoka as well as team they were playing that day — either the World Team, the Mariners or the Fresno Tournament Team — gather in the middle of the mound before the game to one another.

Journalists covering events also received bows. The same cordiality sent off the field, too.

"They're the most I've ever had kids," Friends director Ron Matthews said. "At meals, they start eating until you tell them to stop."

On the field, the players seemed steady, outlook, maintaining a frame of mind regardless of the score.

"(Alameda Babe Ruth) Al Levine, who (Saturday), said they're cism in these kids," Mats said. "You saw them today afternoon) — the cheering the whole game losing by eight runs."

After the final game, the South players celebrated by their own manager. Then they tossed Mats air, then Matthews.

"I was really worried was going down (ground)," Matthews said.

Another Friendship has ended. Perhaps the Alameda World Team Japan, as it did last year.

Whatever happens Alameda — and in sum communities as well — riched by the visit of the teams.

Softball

FROM PAGE 1

to first, Chin alertly dashed home with the go-ahead run.

Holding that 1-0 lead into the bottom half of the inning, Sting catcher Cousins guided the Tremblers runner trying to steal third. Murakami then calmly struck out the next two to seal the win.

Of the 23 batters she faced, Murakami struck out 20. Only three batters hit a ball into the field of play, all weak grounders to the right side.

In the game-five semifinal, the Tremblers earned a rematch with Murakami and the chance to prove that their nickname referred to earthquakes and not shaky knees. The end result,

though, was just another Sting shutout, 3-0.

Fortunes seemed to turn for the Tremblers when the second hitter in the top of the first inning broke out for a single ... but she had little time to enjoy her success as she was soon thrown out trying to steal second.

The Sting jumped on the board in the home half of the first. After Murakami walked and stole both second and third, Studin drove her in with a single.

In the second, the Tremblers led off with a line shot to right, but daring to be cut down, the runner charged for second only to find the ball waiting for her there on the relay from hustling right fielder Lisa Gilliland. After nine more strikeouts and two more Sting runs, Murakami had

completed yet another

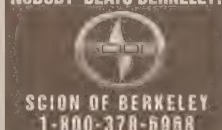
Rebecca Studin went mound in the July against the Half Moons. Waves. She faced an bases-loaded jam in the result of sloppy defense reared back and struck to end the threat. In the Sting won the title by 6-2 victory.

But the Sting had hard for its win.

Again in the third, more in the fourth, Studin out batters to strand scoring position.

Offensively, the Sting "small ball," using walks (including a surprise bunt by power hitter Fong), and singles to put runs across the plate.

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Arts

Back-to-back Oliver's present new twist



BILL MANN
Multimedia Notes

call is ad-
llar windfall
television

WHILE MANY of us in the political middle probably think the upcoming state recall election is a waste of time and money — a doomed right-wing that looks more like a political charge — you just hear television and race salivating, it's because tens of millions of unexpected ad dollars are flowing into local (and radio) stations' coffers for (mostly) venomous ads.

ook my wife out to a four-star restaurant when I heard election had been certified," my local TV news department told me last week. "Summer's usually for us, but not any more." Local TV news departments, faced with slow news in the summer, now have to cover, and they're doing — usually badly.

all brings up another reason to overturn the unwisdom (and seemingly) proposed rules on TV ownership, one seldom discussed. We've had sound arguments supporting more, not less, diversity in ownership and those too much media control few powerful people.

are resoundingly correct. Here's another one: Own-TV license has for years been the same as the print money. So why the government let ANY one a bunch of them? Licenses, after all, aren't used, say, or cars, plentiful ones that anyone can buy free market — they're scarce and ergo, far more valuable. Let more patriotic capitalists own TV. Spread this great wealth. Limit station ownership to a maximum of five.

roadcasters scream surely they will — offer the option of turning printing presses back to the state, to be parceled out to the state.

... that probably too much like socialism, all these days in the marketplace, might make right. So, de-ICC chairman Michael's best efforts, poor Viaduct/CBS will just have to pay with "only" \$23 million in California installment — instead of million they'd pocket if they'd agreed: It's a nice to be in.

IA NOTES: Just wonder- aired a first-rate "Ameri- experience" documentary about last winter. Why do I feature film? Are most unable to get their arms story without it being shed with piano signa- wrought scripts and are acting? It's rather sad. 50,000-watt KGO re- its 100th straight Ar- ratings book (average rate, all listeners, age 12 on). That's 25 straight and it's never been done

ing of KGO, I salute that it's hired its first talk host, a guy Karel. (Another major host remains close- would have been evenough, if KGO had a host who had talent, need to look far ... the way, won the cov- A demo title among stations in those 003 ratings. KGO was in second in 25-54s, ed of all-news KCBS. In ratings, by the way, ched by far the most in an average week — was 921,300, far KGO's 768,800. I'll R powerhouse KQED-official Arbitrons at them ... Am I the trying to get the con- between Led Zeppelin's us song, "Rock 'n' buying a Cadillac?

Comments? E-mail
mann@sonic.net.

THAT SPUNKY Oliver Twist! He's one of the true "comeback kids," all right. He came back for seconds of gruel in the memorable opening scene of the musical that bears his first name. Now the show itself is coming back for seconds — a second production by a different theater company — opening this week as another one closes.

Say "hello" to "Oliver," the inaugural production of the East Bay's brand new Berkeley Musical Theater Company. It opened Thursday night at Albany High School, 603 Key Route, Albany. It continues at 8 p.m. tonight and Saturday and next Friday and Saturday, Aug. 8 and 9, at the same time.

Tickets are \$15 general, \$10 for seniors, students, children and low income. Call 510-524-1224.

Say goodbye to "Oliver," which winds up its Vallejo Music Theatre run at 8 p.m. tonight and Saturday, and 2 p.m. Sunday. Performances are in the Fetterly Playhouse for the Arts, 3467 Sonoma Blvd., Suite 10, Vallejo.

Tickets are \$16 general, \$14 for seniors and military, and \$12 for students. Call 707-265-0733.

"Oliver," Lionel Bart's musicalization of Charles Dickens' novel "Oliver Twist" (1837-39), reflects in part some early experiences of the novelist, born in 1812. Growing up in London, he started school at the age of 9, but his education was interrupted when his father, an amiable but improvident minor civil servant, was imprisoned for debt in 1824.

Young Dickens was then forced to support himself by working in a blacking warehouse. The resulting sense of humiliation and abandonment haunted him for life. He attended school for another couple of years, but for the most part, he was self-educated.

The story of "Oliver," as in the novel, follows the adventures of a poor orphan in 1850s London. He is sold from the workhouse to an undertaker. He runs away. A band of pick-



JACK TUCKER
Community Theater

pockets and thieves take him in. Along the way, he is befriended by colorful characters such as Fagin, a master thief, and the bar girl Nancy.

The production this week-end and next is the realization of a long-held yearning by Jane Ahrens, director and founder of the Berkeley Musical Theater Company, formed earlier this year. She says she has always wanted to act and produce musicals, especially "Oliver."

As a teenager, she and her friends regularly traveled from Detroit to New York to see Broadway shows.

"During high school," Ahrens says, "I traveled to New York at least 20 times to see 'Oliver' and other Broadway shows. In fact, the cast got to know us pretty well, so when years later they toured to Detroit the cast members came to dinner at my house."

Ahrens is playing the role of Mrs. Sowerberry in the current production, and her two daughters, Eliza Khuner, 27, and Katie Grue, 13, sing in the chorus.

The production is directed by Judy Rae Whiting, with musical direction by Kenneth D. Durling, and choreography by Amy Whiting.

MACBETH AM-BUSHED: "Double, double, oily bubble! By the sumping of my pumps, a thing lost in need of humps, comes this way in further dread, for there's nothing in his head — Macbush!"

If that sounds eerily like those three "wyrd" crones stirring the cauldron at the start of Shakespeare's "Scottish play," you win the perception award for recognizing the latest of this season's Bardian twists. You win the booty prize, of course, if you can't guess the identity of the honoree of this political roast who occasionally



STARRING in the Berkeley Musical Theater Company's production of "Oliver" are Katy Corbus as young Oliver, Glenn Zahler as Fagin and Heather Raines as Nancy. The production opened Thursday night.

speaks in troubled syntax.

"The Tragedy of Macbush," written and directed by Michael Hettinger, opens a four-performance run tonight at the Alcaz Arts Center Theatre, 1428 Alice St. (at 14th), Oakland.

The five-act play, according to advance notices, "follows the rise and fall from power of the central character, Macbush. It is a rewrite of 'The Tragedy of Macbeth,' following loosely the plot line of the Shakespearean drama while adhering strictly to Shakespeare's recognizable rhythms, rhymes and verse."

Curtain time is 8 p.m. today

and Saturday, and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$20 at the door. Call 510-465-0076.

YOUTHS DO 'ANIMAL FARM': Curiously, at the same time "Macbush" is on stage in Oakland, a classic political drama — George Orwell's "Animal Farm" — will be playing at Berkeley's Live Oak Theatre, 1301 Shattuck Ave.

Actually, this is an adaptation by Tioni McCoy of the novel Orwell called a "fairy story." It is directed by McCoy and Susan Worthing. And if those names sound familiar — bingo!

See THEATER, Page 5

Exhibit shows the many layers of Chagall

Retrospective spans 63 years of work, reveals artist's depth, complexity

By Robert Taylor
STAFF WRITER

THE MARC CHAGALL most of us know is the one in the street-level shop at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art: Chagall catalogs, Chagall picture books, Chagall children's books, Chagall posters, prints and postcards, Chagall address books and phone books.

In the Bay Area, it's possible for fans to say they love Marc Chagall without ever having seen one of his paintings or drawings, only reproductions. That all changes today when the museum opens a retrospective of 146 Chagall works, spanning the years from 1907 to 1970.

This is the first Chagall retrospective in the United States since 1985, and it arrives in San Francisco directly from Paris. Many of the works are from the Chagall museum in Nice, France.

The show includes many of Chagall's most famous themes, but the collection will go a long way toward shifting the focus beyond his reputation as "the painter of love" and "the great poet-painter of the 20th century." Even those kinds of images look fresh and fascinating.

"He is an artist we all think we know very well," museum director Neal Benezra said as he introduced the sprawling exhibit at a preview.

Chagall's art is more complex, profound and at times tragic than his mass-market popularity suggests.

His paintings might include scenes of his youth in Russia, Jewish life, Christian symbols, religious persecution, romantic fantasies, circus performers or floating birds, cows and goats.

Living and working in Paris and Russia, Chagall both engaged and rejected modern-art trends. He absorbed the structure of cubism, prefigured surrealism but



wouldn't align himself with either movement. He went his own way, imitating no one but himself for more than a half-century.

This means that when you visit the Chagall retrospective at the Museum of Modern Art, you can find whatever you're looking for, plus some surprises around the fringe. Romantic, fantastic, devout, humorous, mystical — every facet of Chagall's work is on view. It's also completely open to interpretation, since only the most basic information is posted with the paintings.

Maybe that's to move crowds through the exhibit more swiftly. The museum expects this to be a popular attraction during its run through Nov. 4. It is extending its opening hours to 9 p.m. on Fridays as well as the usual Thursdays. Tickets to the exhibit will be sold for specific days, although not specific times. There's a \$5 charge beyond the usual museum admission price.

What the exhibit offers that posters do not is, first of all, paintings big enough to imagine yourself falling into, and life-size

mysteries to explore.

"Promenade," a 1917 painting of Chagall's wife in the air, holding on to his hand, is more than 5 feet high. The couple floats across a 6-foot-wide horizon in "Above the Town" (1914-1918). Chagall's "Introduction to the Jewish Theater," painted in 1920 in Moscow, is 25 feet wide and includes the artist, holding a palette, carried across the scene by the theater's director.

Chagall's colors are deeper, more intense and more subtle than reproductions can suggest. That is evident even in a small, tightly enclosed scene such as "Street Musicians," a 1907 composition in gouache and India ink. "Lovers in the Red Sky," a blazing 1950 oil painting, is far more than just red.

Attention grabbing

Some of Chagall's most important paintings, or variations on them, are part of this retrospective and command attention no matter how familiar.

One entire gallery is devoted to what the museum calls "Bella in



"PROMENADE," left, depicts Chagall's wife in the air, holding on to his hand. Above is "Lovers in Gray."

EXHIBIT REVIEW

WHAT: Marc Chagall retrospective

WHERE: San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, 151 Third St., S.F.

WHEN: Through Nov. 4, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturdays-Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays, closed Wednesdays.

HOW MUCH: Including a \$5 surcharge for the Chagall exhibit: \$15 general, \$12 seniors, \$11 students; \$5 first Tuesday of each month.

CONTACT: 415-357-4000, www.sfmoma.org. Special tickets for the Chagall exhibition, for specific dates, are available in advance at 866-468-3399 or www.ticketweb.com.

Flight," paintings that feature images of Chagall's wife, or both of them, flying through the sky above his hometown of Vitebsk, Russia.

"Promenade" is one of the most delightful, with Bella in a flowing purple dress balanced on Chagall's outstretched hand. While this is not the first of these paintings, it suggests that she is learning to levitate for the first time.

See CHAGALL, Page 5

Hey there,
what's your sign,
uh, movie type?

By Mary F. Poles
STAFF WRITER

WE ALL DO IT. We walk into a movie theater and pick our seats carefully. No one wants to sit next to the giggling teenagers (except other teenagers), or next to the 4-year-old who will need to visit the bathroom multiple times. But the truth is, most of us, at one time or another, have belonged to one or more of the following groups of moviegoers. Check out our tongue-in-cheek guide to theater audiences and see if you match any of these descriptions:

■ **"Beavis and Butt-head":** The teenage boy equivalent of the "Heathers," only too cool for school. They've gone to the movie because there was nothing else to do, but make no mistake about it, it's totally lame. Where the "Heathers" giggle, these guys guffaw. They kick the back of the seats, they sprawl into your personal space, they shout at the screen at inappropriate moments.

■ **"Heathers":** Diabolically disruptive young creatures, these. They range in age from 11 to 18 and travel in packs of at least three. They jostle, they giggle, they run up and down the aisles. They are the only demographic left in America that finds anything remotely amusing about the laser pointer. Can be shushed and shamed into silence briefly, but bounce back within 10 minutes.

■ **"The Ya-Ya Sisterhood":** It's girls' night out! Time to pass the popcorn back and forth. Time to laugh. Time to pull out the hankies and share some emotion. Sit near the Ya-Yas at the beginning of the movie and you might be annoyed — they tend to talk a lot during the previews. But once the show starts, this mostly middle-aged group falls into a quiet reverie, because the kids are at home and there's no husband grumbling about how dumb this chick flick is.

■ **"Grumpy Old Men" (and women):** They came to the wrong movie. There is too much sex. Too much violence. Hollywood is a disgrace. And they want you to know it. They move about restlessly in their seats. They crane their head around to see if anyone else is as disgusted as they are. They grunt. They huff audibly. When they storm out, as they often do, they do so dramatically, perhaps beginning their discussion of immortality before they actually hit the exit. Then they head right to the manager's office to give him or her a piece of their mind.

■ **"Outbreak":** You know that rustling sound, the crinkle crinkle of a cough drop being unwrapped, a sound that becomes magnified in the movie-theater darkness. And it seems to take forever. But by the time you hear that crinkle you're grateful, because this moviegoer has been hacking nonstop and you're already worried about catching whatever germs he's spewing into the air — kind of like that scary slow-motion contamination scene from "Outbreak."

■ **"Mommie Dearest" (or "With Six You Get Eggroll"):** Having four kids under the age of 10 is hard work, so off you go to the movies with them in tow. Nine-year-old Tommy will keep quiet if you pop open a can of soda for him, although the sugar will make him kick the seat in front. Sherry, 7, gets scared easily and starts to cry during the big bad R-rated action sequences. Olivia, 5, is squirming nonstop. Jeremy, 3, is bored and stands in the aisle, talking to himself. You, however, are having such a good time that you're oblivious to the *tsk-tsking* around you over your decision to bring the wee ones to "Bad Boys II."

■ **"Baby Boom":** This couple insists that the addition of a baby to the family doesn't mean anything has to change. Why not just take the kid along to the movies? Mom can breastfeed in the dark, the infant will sleep, and the parents will be entertained and remain in touch with culture. It's all good, right? Wrong. We know what happens. The baby does what babies do — it wails, ruining the experience for everyone in the immediate vicinity. The only place for these moviegoers is Baby Brigade day at the Parkway Theater in Oakland.

■ **"Clueless":** We all miss a joke or a line of dialogue sometimes. A model moviegoer asks for clarification later, when the film is over, or pays closer attention to try to figure out what he or she missed. But this person leans over and asks his or her companion for an explanation.

See TYPE, Page 5

NOW PLAYING

Below are capsule reviews of movies playing at area theaters. The reviewers are Mary F. Pols, Times; Robert W. Butler, Chris Hewitt, Knight Ridder Newspapers; Glenn Lovell, Bruce Newman, San Jose Mercury News; David Germain, Christy Lemire, Joeen Noveck, Sheila Norman-Culp, Ben Nuckols, Malcolm Ritter and Matt Wolf, Associated Press; Stephen Holden, Dave Kehr, Elvis Mitchell and A.O. Scott, New York Times; Jack Matthews, New York Daily News; Evan Henenson, Bob Strauss, Glenn Whipp, Los Angeles Daily News; Manohla Dargis, Kevin Thomas and Kenneth Turan, Los Angeles Times; Ed Bark, Nancy Churnin, Chris Vognar, Philip Wuntch, Dallas Morning News; Robert Philpot, Fort Worth Star-Telegram; Jay Boyar, Roger Moore, Orlando Sentinel; Joe Batske, Sacramento Bee; Ann Hornaday and Stephen Hunter, Washington Post.

"BAD BOYS II: In the barest of plots, Miami cops and federal agents try to bring down a ring of Cuban and Russian mobsters smuggling Ecstasy into Florida. On the case, once again, are trash-talking narcotics detectives played by Will Smith and Martin Lawrence, this time joined by newcomer Gabrielle Union. There's really nothing to distinguish good guys from bad boys, beyond the fact that the villains speak in accents, while Smith and Lawrence get to crack wise while blowing things up or blowing people away. You expect morality and decency to go out the window in a big, dumb cop spectacle; you don't figure on the filmmakers reveling in barbarity. — D. Germain. (R: strong violence and action, pervasive language, sexuality and drug content.) 2 hours, 24 minutes. D-

"BEND IT LIKE BECKHAM": This genial ethnic sports comedy directed by Gurinder Chadha was a big hit in Britain. Jess (Parminder Nagra) is the younger daughter in a family of middle-class Punjabi immigrants residing in a London suburb. Her passion for soccer puts her at odds with her parents, who think sports are an improper pastime for an almost-grown teenager with marriage and university to think about. The result is a culture clash that ripples outward from her own household and becomes more and more complicated until the soccer match comes along to sort it all out. — A.O. Scott. (PG-13: language, sexual content.) 1 hour, 52 minutes. C-

"CAPTURING THE FRIEDMANS": If you're at a cocktail party this summer and you're chatting with two other people who've just discovered that they've both seen this fascinating new documentary from novice director Andrew Jarecki, consider yourself conversationally dead in the water. The only reasonable solution is to get out and see it for yourself so you can join in the debate about the Friedmans, a Long Island family that fell apart in the late 1980s after the dad was accused of sexually molesting a dozen or so neighborhood boys. Was he railroaded? Did he do it? You decide. You won't leave feeling cheery, but this roller coaster of a film is deeply challenging. — M. Pols. (NR) 1 hour, 47 minutes. A

"CHARLIE'S ANGELS: FULL THROTTLER": Fun is infectious, which is why the first 'Charlie's Angels' worked. But forced, toothy grins that go on far longer than cheek muscles or genuine merriment

allow also tend to set a tone, which makes this feel strained and tedious. Not to say there isn't some goofy humor here, but there's also a sinking sense that you've seen much of it before. Director McG's pilfers from others rather than creating for himself (he's still stealing from the first "Matrix"), and the girls are starting to seem like a table full of giggling cheerleaders in the high school cafeteria, so hopped up on how adorable they are that they don't realize their charms are wearing thin. Demi Moore as the villain does look fabulous, but she still can't act. — M. Pols. (PG-13: action violence, sensuality and language/innuendo.) 1 hour, 45 minutes. C+

"DIRTY PRETTY THINGS": Stephen Frears' darkly intriguing film is set in a London hotel called the Baltic. With its fluffy monogrammed bathrobes, the place aspires to be posh, but these graffiti visible in the wood-paneled elevator, a prostitute regularly entertains in Room 510, and every now and again, someone might stuff a human heart in a toilet. Night porter Okwe (Chiwetel Ejiofor), an illegal immigrant who was a doctor back in his native Nigeria, sets out to unravel the mystery of the heart. Along the way, he becomes wrapped up in the troubles of Turkish immigrant Senay (Audrey Tautou), who has a crush on him, and runs afoul of hotel chief of staff Senor Juan (a diabolical Sergi Lopez), who can and will sell anything on the black market. The mystery propels the story, but it is the palpable desperation of the immigrants that sells it. — M. Pols. (R: sexual content, disturbing images and language.) 1 hour, 47 minutes. A-

"DOWN WITH LOVE": A fairly winning new romantic comedy that could be right out of the Restoration Hardware catalogue, a stylistic homage to the '60s Doris Day-Rock Hudson comedies. Renee Zellweger is Barbara Novak, author of a shocking new feminist treatise that proposes women who want to get ahead should put aside love. It's a huge publishing hit, but it hampers the sex life of cocky journalist Catcher Block (McGregor), who decides to prove that Barbara is a squishy love nut at heart. Clever retro-style editing really works, the sexual innuendo and banter fly like the Concord; and Catcher's sidekick, David Hyde Pierce, has exquisite comic timing. But the combination of McGregor's creepy shark smile and Zellweger's weirdly puffy face is off-putting and the freshness runs out before the end arrives. — M. Pols. (PG-13: sexual humor and dialogue.) 1 hour, 34 minutes. B-

"FINDING NEMO": Another delight of the imagination from Pixar, set under the sea, in the realm of fish who talk real estate, sharks who try to be better denizens of the deep, and lobster named Mike. Nemo, a small clown fish, is plucked from the ocean and dropped into a fish tank in a dentist's office in Sydney. His timid father, Marlin, travels many leagues to find him, accompanied by a dopey but very funny tang fish (voiced by Ellen DeGeneres). The ideal blend of sentiment and sparkling humor, perfect for kids, charming for parents, and so good it's likely to appeal to a few souls who are neither. — M. Pols. (G) 1 hour, 41 minutes. A

"THE HOUSEKEEPER": Leave it to a veteran French filmmaker, Claude Berri, to bring maximum charm, wisdom and humor to a May-December romance, this one adapted from a novel. A handsome, middle-aged man has a small but tasteful apartment in central Paris and a good job as a recording engineer. When his wife leaves him, he hires a young housekeeper who turns his world upside down. — K. Thomas. (Not rated.) 1 hour 28 minutes. B+

"HOW TO DEAL": Having watched her parents split up, teenager Haley Martin (Mandy Moore) thinks falling in love is treacherous. Even the cutest bad boy in high school, Macon Forrester (Trent Ford), is going to have to work hard to get her to give him the time of day. That constitutes the central dramatic arc of "How to Deal," an amiable, after-school-special-style teen drama. Hardly a meaty premise, but fortunately, the ultra-cute pop star's latest cinematic effort has been padded with more genuine, heartfelt social issues — from the fallout of divorce to teen pregnancy — and features some decent supporting roles.

Allison Janney brings spark to her role as Haley's mom and, truth be told, Moore is an appealing if underplayed actress. — M. Pols. (PG-13: sexual content, drug material, language and some thematic elements.) 1 hour, 41 minutes. C+

"THE HULK": In director Ang Lee's risky, vibrant adaptation of "The Hulk" comic books, we actually feel what we've long taken for granted — that the superhero is lonely, tormented and tragic. The movie's dynamic look, with sliding and multiple split screens that harken back to the story's comic-book origins, may turn

OPENING TODAY

"AMERICAN WEDDING" (R)
How quickly they grow up. "American Pie" guy (Jason Biggs) and band-camp girl (Alyson Hannigan) are getting married. Prepare for the bachelor party of all time. Eugene Levy returns.
"GIGLI" (R)
The already infamous movie that brought J.Lo and Ben Affleck together. Both play gangsters who fall in love while guarding the kidnapped son of a federal prosecutor. Complicating the love story, Jennifer Lopez plays a lesbian.
"LUCIA, LUCIA" (R)
After her husband disappears at the airport, a woman is forced to look for him in Mexico's underworld. In doing so, she discovers hidden truths about her own identity and desires.
"THE MAGDALENE SISTERS" (R)
Several years in the lives of four

off some viewers. The action scenes don't start until a half-hour into the film, when slightly geeky scientist Bruce Banner (the very appealing Eric Bana) first morphs into a somewhat awkward but not unacceptable computer-generated Hulk. Too bad for those who subvert on a diet of plotless action movies but great for anyone who actually cares about the story. Nick Nolte steals scene after scene as Banner's wayward father, Sam Elliott sparkles and Jennifer Connelly does a decent job providing wistful tears. — M. Pols. (PG-13: sci-fi action violence, some disturbing images and brief partial nudity.) 2 hours, 18 minutes. B+

"I CAPTURE THE CASTLE": Director Tim Fywell's charming film version of Dodie Smith's exquisitely pitched and much cherished 1948 coming-of-age novel is the realization of a fan's dream. The seriously impoverished Mortmain family, distinguished by a patriarch who was once a brilliant writer, now entirely blocked, lives in an old castle in rural England. The eldest daughter, Rose, is desperate to marry, in order to improve her and the family's fortunes. The younger daughter, Cassandra (Romola Garai), observes as Rose sets her cap for the wealthy young American brothers who have just arrived to take over a neighboring estate (Henry Thomas, Marc Blucas). But belatedly, Cassandra discovers that she has her own emotional investment in the matter. Romantic, witty and just the thing for the "Room With a View" set. — M. Pols. (R: brief nudity.) 1 hour, 53 minutes. A-

"THE ITALIAN JOB": A life of crime is bad, a Mini Cooper is somewhat impractical, but by the end of this lively, funny action flick, you will probably want to indulge in both. Mark Wahlberg plays the head of a group of very lovable thieves, including Jason Statham, a winning Mos Def and hilarious Seth Green as the computer geek. We get two heists for the price of one. During the first, a nifty boat chase through Venice, our boys are double-crossed by a colleague (Edward Norton) who makes off with all the gold. A year later, the team is ready to take it back. Charl-

"fallen women" in 1980s rejected by their families to the mercy of the Magdalen Asylum. Based on true story of rector Peter Mullan won Golden Lion at the Venice Festival.
"MASKED AND ANONYMOUS" (NR)
Bob Dylan plays Jack Fate, rock legend and prodigal, dying dictator in a Third country, freed from jail for a rock benefit concert. The country's rebel movement, Luke Wilson, Penelope John Goodman and Jesse Lange.
"THE SECRET LIVES OF DENTISTS" (R)
Alan Rudolph's movie about married dentists (Campbell and Hope Davis) whose life is not all they thought. With Denis Leary as the patient who stirs up trouble

ize Theron plays a master cracker with personal rage getting involved. — M. Pols. violence, some language.) minutes. B+

"JOHNNY ENGLISH": Thelma and Dumber? for the internet set. The movie is silly — and it. An unfortunate accident at the British Secret Service office maven Johnny English (Atkinson) as the only man in. Needless to say, the C.O. els are gone within minutes. wants the gaudy rocks then. haps a disgruntled French whose family got shoved as royal succession in, what, 10. Atkinson's comedic style — slow setup to the inevitable line — lets the audience see going to happen a mile away other hand, in small doses. ater. — S. Norman-Culp. (PG-13: nudity, crude humor and language.) 1 hour, 27 minutes. C+

"LARA CROFT TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE": Fans of video game featuring the heroine Lara Croft, go see. Ignore the reviews. Dismiss the gain of your friends. The ray should run to the nearest cause this is perhaps the of the summer, a whole new of awful. Less plot and more than the original, with action sequences and fights that flip ably. — R. Moore. (PG-13: violence and some sexuality.) minutes. R. Moore.

FRIDAY MOVIE LISTINGS

Showtimes for Friday August 1

Alameda County
Act 1 and 2
2128 Central Street Berkeley 510-548-7249
•Masked and Anonymous (PG-13) 12, 2:20, 4:40, 7, 9:30
•Northfork (PG-13) 1, 3:30, 7:15, 9:45

Albany Twin

1115 Solano Ave. Albany 510-524-9588
•Swimming Pool (R) 2, 4:30, 7, 9:15
•Winged Migration (G) 1:45, 4, 6:30, 9

AMC Bay Area 16

5814 Shellmound St. Emeryville 510-457-4262
•American Wedding (R) 12, 12:45, 2:30, 3:15, 5, 6:05, 7:45, 8:45, 10:30, 11:15
•Bad Boys II (R) 12:30, 1:15, 2, 3:45, 4:30, 5:20, 7:05, 7:40, 8:30, 10:20, 11
•Bend It Like Beckham (12:20, 2:45, 5:15, 7:50, 10:25
•Finding Nemo (G) 12:25, 2:50, 5:15, 7:35, 10
•Gigli (R) 1, 4, 7, 10
•How to Deal (PG-13) 7, 9:25
•The Italian Job (PG-13) 1:45, 4:25, 7, 30, 10:05
•Lara Croft Tomb Raider: Cradle of Life (PG-13) 12:05, 1:05, 3, 3:50, 5:40, 6:45, 8:20, 9:20, 11:05
•The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen (PG-13) 1:40, 4:25, 7:15, 9:15
•Legally Blonde 2 (12:20, 2:40, 5:05, 7:20, 9:40
•Spy Kids 3-D: Game Over (PG) 12:05, 1, 1:45, 2:20, 3:20, 4, 4:40, 5:45, 7:10, 8:10, 9:30, 10:30

California Theatre

2113 Kiltredge St. Berkeley 510-848-0249
•Bad Boys II (R) 5, 8:30
•Capturing the Friedmans (Not Rated) 4:40, 9:30
•L'Auberge Espagnole (R) 7
•Whale Rider (PG-13) 4:50, 7:10, 9:20

Chabot Space & Science Center

10000 Skyline Blvd. Oakland 510-336-7300
•The Human Body (Not Rated) 12:30, 5:30
•Lewis & Clark (Not Rated) 11:30, 2:30, 4:30
•The Living Sea (Not Rated) 1:30
•Mars Attacks! (PG-13) 7:30
•To Fly (Not Rated) 10:30, 3:30

Elmwood 3

2965 College Ave. Berkeley 510-649-0530
•Chicago (PG-13) 2:10, 5:50
•Down with Love (PG-13) 2:45, 7
•I Capture the Castle (R) 12:35, 4:50, 9:10
•A Mighty Wind (PG-13) 12:30, 4:40, 9
•Nowhere in Africa (R) 4:05, 8:45
•Rivers and Tides: Andy Goldsworthy Working with Time (Not Rated) 2:55, 7:10

Renaissance Grand Lake

3200 Grand Avenue. Oakland 510-452-3556
•Finding Nemo (G) 11:40, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45
•Johnny English (PG) 11:45, 2, 4, 6, 8:15, 10:15
•Pirates of the Caribbean 12:15, 3:15, 6:45, 9:30
•Seabiscuit (PG-13) 12:30, 3:45, 7, 9:45

Jack London Stadium

100 Washington. Oakland 510-433-1320
•American Wedding (R) 10:30, 11, 12:50, 2:30, 3:10, 5:30, 6:20, 7:55, 9:30, 10:15
•Bad Boys II (R) 12:45, 4:15, 7:30, 10:45
•Lara Croft Tomb Raider: The Cradle of Life (PG-13) 11:20, 2:10, 4:55, 7:40, 10:30
•Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl (PG-13) 12:35, 4, 7:15, 10:25
•Seabiscuit 10, 12, 1, 3:15, 4, 6:30, 7, 9:30, 10
•Spy Kids 3-D: Game Over (PG) 10, 12:10, 2:25, 4:35, 7:05, 9:15
•Terminator 3 (R) 3:45, 10:35

Renaissance Oaks Theatre

1875 Solano Avenue. Berkeley 510-526-1836
•The Housekeeper (Not Rated) 5:30, 7:15
•The Lord of the Rings (PG-13) 2, 9
•Seabiscuit (PG-13) 1, 4, 7, 9:45

Parkway Theater

1834 Park Blvd. Oakland 510-814-2400
•28 Days Later (R) 9:45
•Capturing the Friedmans (Not Rated) 7
•Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle (PG-13) 9:15
•Legally Blonde 2 (PG-13) 6:30

Piedmont Theatre

4186 Piedmont Ave. Oakland 510-654-2758
•Swimming Pool (R) 2, 4:30, 7, 9:25
•Whale Rider (PG-13) 1:30, 4, 6:30, 9
•Winged Migration (G) 1:45, 4:15, 6:45, 9:15

Shattuck Cinemas

2230 Shattuck Ave. Berkeley 510-644-2992
•American Wedding (R) 12:45, 3, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45
•Bend It Like Beckham 1:45, 4:15, 6:50

9:25
•Finding Nemo (G) 1, 3:30, 6, 8:20
•Gigli (R) 1:15, 4:05, 7, 9:40
•Johnny English (PG) 2:10, 4:25, 6:40, 9:05
•Lara Croft Tomb Raider: The Cradle of Life (PG-13) 12:40, 1:30, 3:05, 4, 5:30, 6:30, 8, 9:10, 10:20
•Lucia Lucia (R) 1:20, 4:10, 7:05, 9:45
•Spellbound (G) 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9
•Weather Underground (NR) 2, 4:20, 6:55, 9:15

United Artists Berkeley 7

2274 Shattuck Ave. Berkeley 510-843-0193
•28 Days Later (R) 11:15, 2, 4:30, 7, 10
•The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen (PG-13) 11:30, 2:05, 4:50, 7:40, 10:20
•Pirates of the Caribbean (PG-13) 11:05, 12:15, 2:45, 3:45, 7:15, 7:45, 10:30, 10:45
•The Secret Lives of Dentists (R) 12, 2:30, 5, 7:45, 10:10
•Spy Kids 3-D (PG) 11, 1:30, 4:15, 7:20, 9:55
•Terminator 3 (R) 11:45, 2:15, 4:45, 7:30, 10:15

United Artists Emery Bay

5330 Christie Ave. Emeryville 510-424-0487
•28 Days Later (R) 11:40, 2:20, 5:10, 8, 10:45
•Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle (PG-13) 11:50, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50
•Johnny English (PG) 11:30, 1:35, 3:45, 5:55, 8:05, 10:15
•Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl (PG-13) 11:50, 12:50, 1:50, 3:10, 4:10, 5:10, 6:30, 7:30, 8:45, 9:45, 10:45
•Seabiscuit (PG-13) 11:30, 1, 2:30, 4, 5:30, 7, 8:30, 10
•Terminator 3 (R) 12:20, 2:50, 5:20, 7:50, 10:30
•Whale Rider (PG-13) 11:40, 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40

Central Contra Costa

Renaissance Orinda Theatre
4 Orinda Theatre Sq. Orinda 925-254-9060
•Johnny English (PG) 12, 2, 3:45, 6, 8, 10
•Seabiscuit (PG-13) 1, 4, 7, 9:45
•Spy Kids 3-D: Game Over (PG) 12:30, 2:45, 5, 7:15, 9:15

Renaissance Park Theatre

3519 Golden Gate Way. Lafayette 925-283-7997
•Swimming Pool (R) 1, 4, 7, 9:30

Rheem Theatre

350 Park St. Moraga 925-988-3411
•American Wedding (R) 12, 2:20, 4:40, 7:20, 9:25
•Gigli (R) 11:45, 2:05, 4:25, 7, 9:35
•Lara Croft Tomb Raider: The Cradle of Life (PG-13) 11:50, 2:10, 4:30, 7:10, 9:40
•Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl (PG-13) 12:45, 4, 6:45, 9:30

West Contra Costa

Century 16 Hilltop
3200 Klose Way. Richmond 510-758-2345
•28 Days Later (R) 9:15
•American Wedding (R) 11:45, 12:30, 1:15, 2, 2:45, 3:30, 4:15, 5, 5:45, 6:30, 7:15, 8, 8:45, 9:30, 10:15
•Bad Boys II (R) 12:50, 4:05, 7:10, 10:15
•Bend It Like Beckham (PG-13) 12:20, 2:50, 5:20, 7:50, 10:25
•Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle (PG-13) 9:45
•Finding Nemo (G) 11:45, 2:20, 4:50, 7:15, 9:45
•Gigli (R) 11:15, 2, 4:50, 7:40, 10:30
•Johnny English (PG) 11:20, 1:30, 3:40, 5:50, 7:55, 10:05
•Lara Croft Tomb Raider: The Cradle of Life (PG-13) 11:15, 12:45, 1:55, 3:25, 4:45, 6:15, 7:30, 9, 10:10
•Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl (PG-13) 11:25, 12:55, 2:30, 4, 5:40, 7:10, 8:55, 10:20
•Seabiscuit (PG-13) 1, 4, 7, 10
•Spy Kids 3-D: Game Over (PG) 11:30, 12:35, 1:40, 2:40, 3:50, 4:55, 6, 7:05, 8:10, 10:20
•Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines (R) 11:50, 2:25, 5, 7:35, 10:05

San Francisco

1000 Van Ness 14 *
1000 Van Ness Avenue. San Francisco 415-922-4262
•28 Days Later (R) 2:30, 5:20, 8, 10:55
•American Wedding (R) 1:45, 5:30, 8:10, 10:50
•Bad Boys II (R) 12:50, 4, 7:10, 10:20
•Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle (PG-13) 1:30, 4:05, 7:35, 10:05
•Finding Nemo (G) 2:25, 4:35, 7
•Gigli (R) 1:35, 4:30, 7:30, 10:35
•Johnny English (PG) 1:05, 3:15, 5:25, 7:35, 10:05
•Lara Croft Tomb Raider: The Cradle of Life (PG-13) 1:50, 4:50, 7:40, 10:40
•The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen (PG-13) 2:15, 5:15, 7:50, 10:35
•Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of

the Black Pearl (PG-13) 12:25, 12:55, 3:30, 4, 6:45, 7:15, 10, 10:30
•Seabiscuit (PG-13) 1, 4:05, 7:20, 10:25
•Spy Kids 3-D: Game Over (PG) 2, 4:45, 7:05, 9:30
•Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines (R) 2:20, 5:55, 8:30, 10:50

AMC Kabuki 8 *

1881 Post Street. San Francisco 415-931-9800
•American Wedding (R) 1:35, 4:45, 7:50, 10:30
•Bad Boys II (R) 12:20, 3:35, 6:50, 10
•Finding Nemo (G) 1:15, 4:15, 6:45, 9:30
•Gigli (R) 1, 4, 7:10, 10:05
•Lara Croft Tomb Raider: The Cradle of Life (PG-13) 1:25, 4:30, 7:40, 10:25
•Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl (PG-13) 12:50, 4:05, 7:20, 10:35
•Seabiscuit (PG-13) 12:30, 3:45, 7, 10:15
•Spy Kids 3-D: Game Over (PG) 12:40, 3, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45

Bridge Theatre

3010 Geary Blvd. San Francisco 415-751-3213
•Dirty Pretty Things (R) 12, 2:30, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45
•28 Days Later (R) 11:40, 2:20, 5:10, 8, 10:45

Castro Theatre *

429 Castro St. San Francisco 415-621-6120
•The Weather Underground (Not Rated) 7, 9, 15

Clay Theatre

2261 Fillmore Street. San Francisco 415-346-1124
•Swimming Pool (R) 11:15, 1:45, 4:20, 7, 9:40

Embarcadero Center Cinemas

1 Embarcadero Center. San Francisco 415-352-0631
•The Magdalene Sisters (R) 1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 9:50
•Masked and Anonymous (PG-13) 12, 2:35, 5, 7:35, 10
•Spellbound (G) 1, 4:30, 7:20, 9:40
•Whale Rider (PG-13) 1:15, 4:10, 6:45, 9:10
•Winged Migration (G) 12:10, 2:20, 4:45, 7, 9:20

Lumiere Theatre *

1572 California St. San Francisco 415-885-3201
•Closed for Remodeling.

Opera Plaza Cinema

601 Van Ness Ave. San Francisco 415-771-0183
•Capturing the Friedmans (Not Rated) 2, 4:30, 7:15, 9:45
•Km. 0 - Kilometer Zero (Not Rated) 1:45, 4:20, 7, 9:35
•Lucia Lucia (R) 1:30, 4:05, 6:50, 9:25
•Northfork (PG-13) 2:15, 4:45, 7:30, 9:55

The Red Vic Theatre *

1727 Haight. San Francisco 415-668-3994
•Better Luck Tomorrow (R) 7:15, 9:25

The Roxie Theatre *

3117 18th St. Valencia. San Francisco 415-863-1087
•Ali Zaoua: Prince of the Streets (Not Rated) 6:15, 8, 9:45

Loews Theatres Metreon *

101 Fourth St. San Francisco 415-369-6201
•28 Days Later (R) 11:30, 2:40, 5:50, 9, 11:50
•American Wedding (R) 10:40, 1:20, 4:10, 7, 9:50, 10:50
•Bad Boys II (R) 1, 4:50, 11:40, 11:40
•Finding Nemo (G) 10:50, 1:40, 4:20, 7:10
•Gigli (R) 10:35, 1:30, 4:40, 7:50, 11
•Johnny English (PG) 12:40, 3:20, 6, 8:20, 10:30
•Lara Croft Tomb Raider: The Cradle of Life (PG-13) 11:20, 12, 2:20, 3:10, 5:20, 6:20, 8:30, 9:30, 11:30
•The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen (PG-13) 12:50, 3:50, 6:40, 9:40
•Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl (PG-13) 12:20, 3:30, 6:50, 10
•Seabiscuit (PG-13) 11:10, 12:10, 2:50, 3:40, 7:30, 7:50, 10:10
•The Secret Lives of Dentists (R) 10:30, 1:10, 4, 7:20, 10:20
•Spy Kids 3-D: Game Over (PG) 11:40, 2:10, 5:10, 7:40, 10:05
•Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines (R) 11, 2, 5, 8, 11:20

Loews IMAX Theatre *

101 Fourth Street. San Francisco 415-369-6201
•Bugs! (Not Rated) 10:30, 1:30, 3
•Ghosts of the Abyss (G) 12
•Matrix (IMAX) Reloaded (R) 4:30, 7:40, 10:40

United Artists Galaxy 4 *

magall

M PAGE C3

"Midsummer Night's Dream," which Chagall began in 1930 but not complete until 1939, suggests an embrace by Titania and Bottom, two of the lovers from Shakespeare's play, but there is no romantic about the vagabond of the female figure in beauty-and-the-beast encounter. The museum's catalog lists it to Chagall's other experiments in surrealism.

Chagall's paintings and sketches for the theater fill a large gallery, and curator Robert Bishop considers these to be the key to his art. One of the images commanded his attention again and again — the man-faced fiddler on the rooftop of a village. This painting is one of a series illustrating music, dance, drama and literature that he completed in 1920 at the Jewish Theater in Moscow.

ous imagery

"White Crucifixion" depicts Jesus in a prayer shawl in Jerusalem, surrounded by terrified scenes of Jewish persecution, suggesting the Nazi

atrocities that were familiar when the painting was completed in 1938. (One of Chagall's early paintings was included in the Nazi's infamous "Degenerate Art" exhibition in the 1930s and '40s.)

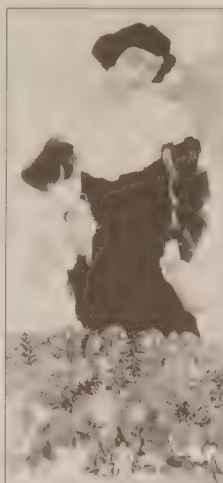
The discoveries in this jam-packed exhibit are on the fringe of Chagall's familiar images and sometimes small in scale. Among them are the amusing, cubist "Nude With Comb" (1911-1912); a lively but precisely composed "Acrobat" (1914); and "The Sleigh" (1943), with a woman's face leading the way over an inky-blue landscape.

Curator Bishop said at the exhibit preview that Chagall "possesses a singular voice in 20th century art," and his art remains very personal, yet very universal.

The show can open a window on a prolific artist's career that spanned much of the 20th century.

"I think what people will see in this exhibit," Bishop said, "is an artist with convictions and a depth of concern that ran very deep. He is a layered and perhaps more complex artist than people believe him to be."

Robert Taylor covers fine arts for the Times. Reach him at 925-977-8428 or rtaylor@cctimes.com.



IN THE FLESH: Reproductions have made many of Marc Chagall's images famous, but a large body of his work has rarely been exhibited in the United States. At right is "Midsummer Night's Dream." "Bella with White Collar" is above.



reviews

M PAGE C4

BERGE ESPAGNOLE: The movie has a history of making its name about post-adolescents who are looking for the meaning of life, and this one is worth investigating. It is a Xavier (Romain Duris), a Parisian who leaves his girlfriend (Audrey Tautou) to go abroad for a year of graduate school. His education begins in earnest when he lands at a cramped flat occupied by six other college students, from a different European country to loosely translate the title, it's a juggling, a locale from which comes to realize "you get out exactly what you put in." The film has the magic of that unfettered with a mixture of humor and wistfulness, making it a pleasure to watch you looking back or forward to the experience of leaving home for the first time. — G. Whipp. (R; Spanish/English/Catalan/English subtitles; language content) 1 hour, 56 min. B

LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN: The first crumbling in this movie signals a problem. Meant to be an imposing and made of stone, it has the weight of the Styrofoam cups, but last electronics purchase on a comic book — albeit a respected and refined one is Alan Moore's — can't get the right there's little hope for the story. Moore's premise, a group of legendary characters from writers' fiction co-existed in the fighting team in late 19th century Britain, is completely wasted in a dreary, humorless adaptation from Steve Norrington. Even Sean Connery seems to be a M. P. (PG-13: intense scenes of fantasy violence, language) 1 hour, 52 minutes. D

ALLY BLONDE 2: RED, WHITE AND BLUE: Bears more than a resemblance to "School of Rock," those snippets of education to music featured on '70s albums (Reese Witherspoon) helped pass school. After development for animal rights, the film of Brainer the Chihuahua, goes to D.C. to stop chemical weapons on animals. Along the way, there are various surprisingly accurate, both about bill making and Washington corruption, from able to bring characters played by Bob Odenkirk and Sally Field. Best suited for movie audiences, but in its way, it's the first film and, like "School of Rock," rather sweetly as a civics lesson. Witherspoon goes through some alchemy, to an annoying character enchantment. — M. P. (PG-13: some sex-related material) 1 hour, 34 minutes. B-

THE SATYR: It is 1932 in the bohemian neighborhood of Greenwich Village, a home to pimps, prostitutes and misfits, and Joao dos Santos (Lazaro Ramos) is a street fighter and a man who transforms himself into a Satyr, a glittering transvestite and storyteller. The movie pretends to be a meticulous biography of the real Francisco, who lived in 1900 to slaves in the

wasteland of North Brazil and sold by his mother at 7. It is a voluptuous, hot-blooded portrait of a social outcast, a black homosexual criminal who in acting out his gaudiest Hollywood dreams, transcendently reinvented himself. — S. Holden. (Not rated; in Portuguese with English subtitles) 1 hour, 45 minutes. A-

"THE MATRIX RELOADED": A muddled marathon of special effects that leaves you overstimulated and overwhelmed. This time around, there are more Agent Smiths (many more), more sunglasses, a tour of the last safe haven for man and even some unplugged sex. Along with that comes a TV-style cliffhanger and enough confusion to fuel furious debate in chat rooms until November, when "The Matrix Revolutions," the final installment of the Wachowski brothers' trilogy, will be released. The movie takes itself too seriously, the allegedly deep philosophical meaning feels cobbled together from a freshman seminar, and in the end, this sequel isn't nearly as engaging or innovative as its predecessor. — M. P. (R: sci-fi violence and some sexuality) 2 hours, 18 minutes. C+

"A MIGHTY WIND": It's unlikely that Christopher Guest will ever make a truly bad or boring movie, but with his latest, "A Mighty Wind," the bloom falls a tad off the rose of his unique mockumentary style. "Waiting for Guffman" and "Best in Show" made us snort with laughter. This one, a parody of earnest and talentless folk singers from the early '60s meeting for a reunion show, is funny, but not quite up to snuff. It's formulaic and lacks spontaneity. Also, since when has all folk music so awful? Even in "Spinal Tap," those who disliked heavy metal could get a charge out of the music. But here we get one tedious, insipid song after another. Guest hardly owes us a historical recounting of the folk era, but since he's usually so razor-sharp and inclusive, one wonders what about talents like Joan Baez, Woody Guthrie or Bob Dylan? — M. P. (PG-13: sex-related material) 1 hour, 37 minutes. C+

"NORTHFORK": The movie is set on a vast Montana plain in 1955, two days before the town of the film's title will be submerged by the opening of an immense dam. Government officials are not amused that 65 Northfork residents have still not left their property, and six men, clad in black and paired into three teams, have been recruited to facilitate the "evacs." The key team consists of Walter O'Brien (James Woods), who also must decide whether to exhume his late wife from the local cemetery and rebury her, and Walter's son Willis (Mark Polish). This evocative piece of Americana is also a prairie folk tale, expressing with charm and tenderness the possibility of an afterlife, or at the very least that there's always a lot more to life than meets the eye. — K. Thomas. (PG-13: language, violence, children in jeopardy) 1 hour, 34 minutes. B+

"NOWHERE IN AFRICA": This Oscar-winning German film is a Holocaust survival story. Based on journalist Stefanie Zweig's memoir, this is one of the better filmed examinations of Europeans in British colonial Kenya. The suffering is, in a historical sense, negligible. Yet the personal impact of the calamity is evoked with a jarring com-

pletteness. Three very lucky people get out of Nazi Germany in 1938, several months before things go irreversibly bad for Jews. This movie finds deep psychological insights where most just go hunting for big game. — B. Strauss. (NR: German with English subtitles; sex, nudity, language and racist language and actions) 2 hours, 18 minutes. A-

"PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: THE CURSE OF THE BLACK PEARL": Johnny Depp is the best thing about this overblown pirate epic inspired by the Disneyland theme ride. You've never seen a pirate like Depp's Capt. Jack Sparrow. He prances, he flits; he seems like an escapee from "The Rocky Horror Picture Show." Keira Knightley (the tomboy from "Bend It Like Beckham") makes a winning love interest, but overall, this Jerry Bruckheimer production is a flashy, soulless bore. After two hours, it becomes a ride one desperately wants to get off. — M. P. (PG-13: action/adventure violence) 2 hours, 23 minutes. C

"SEABISCUIT": There are missteps in writer/director Gary Ross' screen adaptation of "Seabiscuit," including some hearty, unnecessary doses of sentimentality, but in the end, they take a back seat to the way the movie makes you feel. Even if you know the outcome of every one of Seabiscuit's races from having read Laura Hillenbrand's best-selling nonfiction account of his career, the movie re-creates some so vividly that you will find yourself leaning forward, wringing your hands in fear the little horse won't reach the finish line first. Jeff Bridges and Chris Cooper are perfectly cast, and Tobey Maguire gets the job done. "Seabiscuit" is the kick in the pants this week cinematic summer so desperately needed. — M. P. (PG-13: some sexual situations and sports-related violence) 2 hours, 20 minutes. B+

"THE SEA IS WATCHING": An exquisite period piece from a script that legendary filmmaker Akira Kurosawa didn't live to direct. It has a softer edge than the master probably would have delivered but is deeply affecting. Like an earlier film by Kei Kumai, "Sandakan 8," which focuses on the plight of women sold into prostitution in Southeast Asia in the late '20s, it eloquently expresses an acceptance of life in all its hardships. — K. Thomas. (R: some sexuality; in Japanese with English subtitles) 1 hour, 59 minutes. B

"SINBAD: LEGEND OF THE SEVEN SEAS": It now appears that "Shrek" was a major fluke for DreamWorks animation. Last year's "Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron" and now this don't even come close. Don't be fooled by all the "Shrek" tie-ins; the company knows how lame "Sinbad" is. And even though the voices carry a lot of star power — Brad Pitt, Joseph Fiennes, Michelle Pfeiffer — only Catherine Zeta-Jones leaves any kind of vocal impression. — R. Moore. (PG: adventure action, mild sexuality, brief language) 1 hour, 26 minutes. C

"SPELLBOUND": This Academy Award-nominated documentary is ostensibly about the National Spelling Bee, told through the stories of eight kids who made it to the 1999 finals. But that makes it sound so dry, and this is such a passionate and engaging movie. You fall hard for eight very distinct and somewhat peculiar chil-

dren, and at the same time, are movingly reminded of all the best things about the melting pot and the American dream. Sharp, clever editing enhances the natural tension of the bee, and filmmakers Jeff Blitz and Sean Welch know how to use irony while remaining good-hearted and true to their subjects. — M. P. (G) 1 hour, 37 minutes. A

"SPY KIDS 3-D: GAME OVER": The sole reason to see this movie, beyond constant harassment by one's offspring, is that the movie is presented in 3-D. Other than that, this pale shadow of the first "Spy Kids" is as emotionally barren and irritating as the video game it takes place within. Juni (Daryl Sabara) must enter virtual reality to save his sister Carmen (Alexa Vega) from the clutches of the diabolical Toymaker (Sylvester Stallone). Juni and Grandfather (Ricardo Montalban) get the most screen time, with Mom, Dad and the rest of the gang not showing up until the end. All of this makes us feel as though we are watching the 10th "Spy Kids" movie, the one in which all the real stars declared themselves through with this, leaving the acting to lesser cast members. — M. P. (PG: action sequences and peril) 1 hour, 25 minutes. C-

"SWIMMING POOL": It's hard to make the process of writing interesting on film, but director Francois Ozon and actress Charlotte Rampling pull it off in this graceful and deceptively playful exploration of a writer's mind. Rampling is a dour Englishwoman who heads to her publisher's country home to find inspiration for her new novel; there she encounters his dissolute daughter. Beyond the personality clashes is a rich and compelling subtext, full of plot twists and a major hairpin curve at the end. — B. Nuckolls. (R: strong sexual content, nudity, language, some violence and drug use) 1 hour, 45 minutes. B+

"TERMINATOR 3: RISE OF THE MACHINES": John Connor (Nick Stahl) is 22 now, living a lonely life off the grid so the mean machines in the future can't find him. Instead, they send back the TX (Kristanna Loken), a beautiful killing machine, to eliminate the future savior of the world. The Terminator (Arnold Schwarzenegger) follows, intent on saving Connor once again. Boy-bot and girl-bot duke it out. What makes this story work is the lively action, the steady sense of humor (Schwarzenegger has some zingy, campy lines) and endearing performances from Stahl and Claire Danes, playing a love interest who would much rather be somewhere else. Not as spooky and cool as the first film, but a satisfying end to the saga that began in 1984. — M. P. (R: strong sci-fi violence and action, language and brief nudity) 1 hour, 48 minutes. B

"28 DAYS LATER": As zombie movies go, director Danny Boyle's is somewhat unusual in that its scarier element may be how plausible its plague scenario seems. Animal activists accidentally unleash test chimpanzees infected with a blood-borne disease and a yen for violence (thanks to being force-fed terrible images). Within 28 days, all of Britain and perhaps the rest of the world, is infected, save for a few plucky survivors, including naive Jim (Cillian

Type

FROM PAGE C3

Loudly. By doing so, they often miss the next line. And so on. The curious thing about these people is their co-dependent relationship with their partner, who obligingly provides running commentary.

■ **"Eat Drink Man Woman":** This moviegoer hunches over a contraband bag of whatever and shoots looks at the other patrons that say, "Hey, I didn't have time for dinner before the show, OK, so I snuck this burrito in with me. I know it kind of smells and the bag rattles whenever I fish around for a tortilla chip, but deal with it."

■ **"Raging Bull":** He's the one talking loudly and obnoxiously before, during and after the movie. His pager goes off, his cell phone rings and he answers it! He's just longing for someone to shush him so he can blow his big, scary stack.

■ **"Dirty Harry":** We all smell sometimes. But how awful to be crammed next to someone in a movie theater who smells all the time. Maybe it's that hot-dog breath, or that pack of cigarettes he or she smoked that day. Or maybe it's that jacket that really is due for a trip to the dry cleaner. Perhaps the problem could be solved with some with deodorant. Suddenly, 90 minutes seems like an eternity.

■ **"The Critic":** We won't deny it, we're just as much of a type as anyone else at the theater. We turn the pages of our notebooks way too often and loudly. We thrash around near the end of a movie we have come to despise. We laugh contemptuously at saccharine moments. We are grumpy. We are crowd-control fiends. We have been known to get the manager and demand that the "Heathers" be strung up by their platform flip flops. We take on the "Raging Bull," we get the best seats, and if you've uttered so much as a peep, we've given you a dirty look.

Mary F. Pols is the Times movie critic. Reach her at 925-945-4741 or mpols@cctimes.com.

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theater

PAGE C3

show is the fruit of a partnership between the Actors Workshop (YAW) and Community School of Bay (CSEB), a pro-independent middle in Oakland.

The partnership was after recent stage cuts drastically reduced or continuation of the Contra Costa College, since 1989. budget cuts have

forced us to become a fee-based organization," says Worthing who headed the program at CCC. "In our efforts to continue YAW as a performing arts program specifically geared toward the artistic growth of teens, current and former faculty members, parents and students launched a campaign to find YAW a new home. The CSEB partnership allows us to continue our focus on presenting quality new work by and for young people."

In "Animal Farm," a group of farm animals take over their land. In their revolution against

tyranny they drift into socialism and ultimately a totalitarian government that proves to be just as corrupt as the plight they revolted against.

This how-do-you-do produced the often quoted line: "All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others."

"Animal Farm" previewed last night and opens tonight at 7 with a benefit performance for the Young Actors' Workshop Scholarship Fund. Opening night tickets are \$40 in advance, \$45 at the door, and include pre-show and intermis-

sion wine, hors d'oeuvres and raffle, as well as live music and additional entertainment.

Regular admission is \$12 regular, \$10 for seniors and students. Curtain times are 8 p.m. Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. Call 510-232-7346 or check out YAWofEB@yahoo.com.

Send theater items of interest to Jack Tucker c/o the West County Times, 4301 Lakeside Drive, Richmond, CA 94806; e-mail to jtucker@cctimes.com; fax to 510-262-2776, or call 510-262-2768. Include a contact name and number.

THEATRICAL — "The Tragedy of Macbeth" by Michael Hettiger, a live-act play that follows the fall from power of the character, it is a rewrite of "The Tragedy of Macbeth." Tickets \$15.50. Performances 8 p.m. Friday-Sunday. 1428 Alice Blvd. 510-465-0076 or www.mhpeace.org

MUSICAL THEATRE COM. — "Oliver!" by Lionel Bart, Aug. 9. Based on Charles Dickens' "Oliver Twist," the musical is a piece of workhouse to an orphan and is then taken up by a thief. Tickets \$15 general, \$12 for students, children, and seniors. Performances 8 p.m. Friday, 10 p.m. Saturday. Details at Albany High School, 1428 Alice Blvd. 510-465-0076 or www.mhpeace.org

COSTA CIVIC THEATRE — "A Thing Happened on the Way to Home" by Bert Shevlove, Larry and Stephen Sondheim, Aug. 16. A vaudeville-style musical about the South Asian diaspora and is then taken up by a thief. Tickets \$20 general, \$12 for students, children, and seniors. Performances 8 p.m. Friday, 10 p.m. Saturday. Details at Albany High School, 1428 Alice Blvd. 510-465-0076 or www.mhpeace.org

IN THE DIASPORA — 7 p.m. Aug. 3. Event will showcase artists of the South Asian diaspora in spoken-word, poetry, theater, film shorts, music performance. Tickets \$5-10. Oakland Box and Gallery, 1928 Telegraph Ave. 510-451-1932 or www.oaklandbox.com

MOISCO MIMIC TROUPE — In season, this satirical political troupe performs free in Bay Area and indoor venues across California. All shows open with an hour of live music. Performance of the Mounties" by

Michael Sullivan, Bruce Barthol, Ellen Callas and Jason Sherbundy, through Sept. 1. This new musical action adventure, set in the near future, addresses themes of militarism and empire as the U.S. prepares to invade Canada to get rid of terrorist threats there. Performances 2 p.m. Aug. 9-10, Live Oak Park, Shattuck Avenue and Berryman Street, Berkeley. Free. 415-285-1717 or www.sfmt.org

SHOTGUN PLAYERS — "Mother Courage and Her Children" by Bertolt Brecht, runs Aug. 2-Sept. 14. A woman who depends on war for her personal survival is nicknamed Mother Courage for her coolness in safeguarding her merchandise under enemy fire. One by one her three children die, yet she continues her profiteering. With live music. 4 p.m. Saturday-Sunday. The Sept. 13 show will be at Live Oak Park, Berryman Street and Shattuck Avenue. Free. Noon show Aug. 9. John Hinkle Park, South Hampton Avenue and San Diego Road, Berkeley. 510-704-8210 or www.shotgunplayers.org

Popular music

ASHKENAZ — Machel Montano and Xtatic 5.0, Tropical Vibrations, 9:30 p.m. Aug. 1. \$20 to \$25. The Savoy-Doucet Cajun Band, 9:30 p.m. Aug. 2 with Cajun dance lessons at 8:30 p.m. \$18 to \$20. Top Dog Run, Rumen Shopov and Friends, 8:30 p.m. Aug. 5 with Balkan dance lessons at 7:30 p.m. \$10. Stella Chiweshe, 9 p.m. Aug. 6. \$12 to \$14. Soukous Stars, 9:30 p.m. Aug. 8. \$18. Caribbean All-stars, 9:30 p.m. Aug. 9. \$13. 1317 San Pablo Avenue, Berkeley. (510) 525-5055 or www.ashkenaz.com

BECKETT'S IRISH PUB — Nicole McRory, 9:30 p.m. Aug. 2, 6 and 9. The Shots, 9:30 p.m. Aug. 7. Free. Ages 21 and older only. 2271 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-647-1790 or www.beckettsirishpub.com

BLAKE'S ON TELEGRAPH — The Steve Gannon Band and M2, 9:30 p.m. Mondays. \$4. For ages 18 and older only. 2367 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley

510-848-0886 or www.blakesontelegraph.com

CATO'S ALE HOUSE — Jose Roberto y Sus Amigos, Aug. 2. Voodoo Aisle 9, Aug. 3. The Shots, Aug. 6. Christopher Gampier Trio, featuring Michael Emanau, Aug. 10. Free. Wednesday 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. 3891 Piedmont Ave., Oakland 510-655-3349 or www.mrcato.com

"DESI ART IN THE DIASPORA" — 7 p.m. Aug. 3. The event will showcase artists of the South Asian diaspora in spoken-word, poetry, theater, dance, film shorts, and music performance. Tickets \$8-\$10. Oakland Box Theater and Gallery, 1928 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-451-1932 or www.oaklandbox.com

DOWNTOWN — Jackie Ryan, Aug. 1. Joshi Marshall, Aug. 2. Mim Fox Solo Guitar, Aug. 5. Jules Brassard and Ned Boynton, Aug. 6. Keni El Lennjano Flamenco Guitar, Aug. 7. Danny Caron and Friends, Aug. 8. Slow and Slower, Aug. 9. Free. Music starts at 8 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday, 9:30 p.m. Friday-Sunday. 2102 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-649-3810 or www.downtownrestaurant.com

FREIGHT AND SALVAGE — Savoy-Doucet Cajun Band, Aug. 1. \$18.50 to \$19.50. Houston Jones, Aug. 2. \$15.50 to \$16.50. Forward Kwenda, Erica Azim, Aug. 3. \$16.50 to \$17.50. Kenny Cahn, Aug. 6. \$15.50 to \$16.50. Mitch Greenhill and Mayne Smith, Aug. 7. \$15.50 to \$16.50. Michael McNevin, Aug. 8. \$15.50 to \$16.50. Ramblin' Jack Elliot, Aug. 9. \$17.50 to \$18.50. Phil Marsh, Aug. 10. \$15.50 to \$16.50. Music starts at 8 p.m. 1111 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-548-1761 or 510-762-BASS or www.freightandsalvage.org

THE GREEK THEATRE — Norah Jones with Richard Julian, 8 p.m. Aug. 2. \$32.50-\$45. Hearst Avenue and Gayley Road, Berkeley. 510-444-TIXS, 415-421-TIXS, www.cc.com or www.ticketmaster.com

KIMBALLS EAST — The Platters, Aug. 1-Aug. 3. \$28. Jerry Butler, Aug. 8-Aug. 10. \$30. Shows start at 8 and 10 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and at 5 and 8

p.m. Sundays. 6005 Shellmound St., Emeryville. 510-762-BASS or www.kimballs.com

LA PENNA CULTURAL CENTER — Anzanga Marimba Ensemble, Julia Tsitsi Chigamba, Chinyakare Dance Ensemble, 8:30 p.m. Aug. 1. \$10-\$12. Son de Madera, Son Bonkua, 6 p.m. Aug. 2. \$12. La Penna Bay Area Latin Jazz Series, 7:30 p.m. Aug. 3. Featuring Youth Music Summit East-West Latin Jazz Concert, Insight and Latin Jazz Youth Ensemble of SF. \$10. 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568 or www.lapenna.org

924 GILMAN ST. — To See You Broken. The Diskords, Aug. 1. Plan 9, Penis Flytrap, Proud Flesh, Free Verse, The Pox, Aug. 2. For the Crown, In Control, Modern Life is War, Dragnet, Aug. 3. 5 p.m. The Locusts, Erase Errata Hella, The Rob Rabs, Aug. 9. Strike Anywhere, From Ashes Rise, They Live, Robot Has Werewolf Head, Disaster, Stalker Potential, Aug. 10. All Ages Welcome. Shows are \$5 and start at 8 p.m. 924 Gilman St., Berkeley. 510-525-9926

THE OAKLAND MUNICIPAL BAND through Aug. 10. Musical Director Dwight LaRue Hall will lead the band in its 92nd concert season. Bring a blanket or lawn chairs. Free. 1-3 p.m. Sundays. Lakeside Park, 1520 Lakeside Drive. Oakland. 510-339-2818.

QUINN'S LIGHTHOUSE — The Starboard Watch featuring Skip Henderson, 8-10 p.m. Thursdays. Free. 51 Embarcadero Cove, Oakland. 510-536-2050

"RAPTIVISM: THE NEW SOCIAL ACTIVISM" — 7-10 p.m. Aug. 1. A celebration of hip-hop culture featuring music by Felonious, DJS Sake 1 and Apollo, a fashion parade, spoken word and a slide presentation of graffiti. Presented in conjunction with "Reflections in Black: Smithsonian African American Photography." \$10. Oakland Museum of California, 10th and Oak streets, Oakland. 510-238-2200

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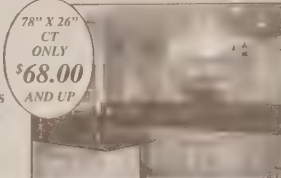
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Events

FROM PAGE C7

THE STARRY PLOUGH PUB — Jerry Garcia Birthday Bash, 9:30 p.m. Aug. 1. Featuring Sun Masons, Savant Guard, Seconds on End, \$5. Carmelized, 10:30 p.m. Aug. 2. \$5. Victoria Williams, Mark Olsen and the Creek Dippers, 7:30 p.m. Aug. 2. \$12. The Starry Irish Music Session led by Shay Black, 8 p.m. Aug. 3 and 10. Sliding scale. The Reverend Screaming Singers, Joe Rut, Sophie, 9:30 p.m. Aug. 7. \$5. The Weary Boys, The Gilet Dippers, 9:30 p.m. Aug. 8. \$8. Ludlites, Dead Science, Graham Connan's Jetison Slinky, Good For Cow, 9:30 p.m. Aug. 9. \$8. For ages 21 and over, unless otherwise noted. 3101 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-2082.

THIRD THURSDAY SUMMER SOUNDS ART STROLL — Thomas Michael, 5 p.m. Aug. 2. Free. 555 City Center, Oakland. 510-528-8490 or www.oaklandcitycenter.com.

YOSHIS — Bob James, through Aug. 1. \$22 to \$26. Gato Barbieri, Aug. 2-3. \$22. Joel Harrison, Aug. 4. \$12. Pharaoh Sanders, Aug. 5-Aug. 10. \$10 to \$24. Shows are at 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. Monday-Saturday and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Sunday. 510 Embarcadero West, Oakland. 510-238-9200 or www.yoshis.com or www.tickets.com.

Museums

AFRICAN-AMERICAN MUSEUM AND LIBRARY — "Reflections in Black: Smithsonian African American Photography," through Aug. 31. Part I of an exhibit exploring the history of black photography, 1840 to present, this exhibit, "The First 100 Years: 1842-1942," covers African-American pioneers in photography, who used new techniques, such as daguerotypes, ambrotypes, tintypes, stereographs, composite printing and flash photography to create a technical and pictorial history of African-American life. Among photographers included are Lewis Lion, James Presley Ball, Daniel Freeman, Arthur P. Bedou and Florence Perrault Collins. Other parts of the exhibition are at the Oakland Museum of California and the Mills College Art Museum. Also at the African-American Museum: "Creativity and Resistance: Maroon Cultures in the Americas," ongoing. An exhibit featuring historical drawings and maps, a timeline, contemporary photographs and a selection of ceremonial and daily life objects. "Golden Road to Freedom: The African Legacy in California, 1775-1900," ongoing. An exhibit focusing on the role that people of African descent played in later expeditions and settlements before the annexation of California. Free. Hours: noon-5:30 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday. 659 14th St., Oakland. 510-637-0200 or www.oaklandlibrary.org.

EBONY MUSEUM OF ARTS — A museum specializing in the art and history of Africa. The collection, which was on display in the museum's Jack London Village branch, has been incorporated with the material in the 14th Street Victorian Museum building, the site of the original museum. Free admission; guided tour is \$2. 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Saturday. 1034 14th St., Oakland. 510-763-0141.

GOLDEN STATE MODEL RAILROAD MUSEUM — through Dec. 28. The museum features displays of running model railroads constructed and operated by the East Bay Model Engineers Society. Covering some 10,000 square feet, steam and diesel-powered freight and passenger trains operate in O, HO and N-scales on separate layouts, as well as narrow gauge and trolley lines. Of special interest is the Tehachapi Pass and Loop on the N-scale layout, which shows how the multiple engine trains traverse the gorges and tunnels, passing over themselves to gain altitude to cross Tehachapi Summit just east of Bakersfield. The layouts also include such famous railroad landmarks as Niles Canyon, Donner Pass and the Oakland Mole, where transcontinental passengers were ferried across the Bay from arriving trains. In December, the trains and layouts will be decorated. Admission is \$3 general; \$2 for seniors and children under age 12; \$7 family maximum; free to all on Saturdays. Open noon-5 p.m. Saturday-Sunday. Miller-Knox Regional Shoreline, 900 Donnan Drive, Point Richmond. 510-234-4884 or www.gsmrm.org.

HALL OF HEALTH EXHIBITS — "This Is Your Heart!" ongoing, an interactive exhibit on heart health. "Good Nutrition," ongoing, includes models for making balanced meals and an exercise bike for calculating how calories are burned. "Draw Your Own In-sides," ongoing, has human-shaped chalkboards and models with removable organs that allow visitors to explore the inside of their bodies. "Your Cellular Self and Cancer Prevention," ongoing, is an exhibit on understanding how cells become cancerous and how to detect and prevent cancer. Suggested \$3 donation; free for children under 3. Open 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday. 2230 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-549-1564 or www.hallofhealth.org.

MILLS COLLEGE ART MUSEUM — CLOSING — "Reflections in Black: Smithsonian African American Photography," closing Aug. 10. Part III of an exhibit exploring the history of black photography, 1840 to present. This exhibit, titled "A History Deconstructed," explores African-American artists who have, during the past two decades, used their work to help break down rigid concepts of race and gender. Featured artists include Carrie Mae Weems, Stephen Mar, Albert Chong, Keba Armand Konte and Cynthia Wiggins. Other parts of the exhibition are at the Oakland Museum of California and the African-American Museum and Library at Oakland. Free. Open 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-7:30 p.m. Wednesday and 1-4 p.m. Sunday. 5000 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. 510-430-2164 or www.mills.edu/MCAM/mcam.html.

MUSEE DES HOMMAGES — "Masterworks Copies by Guy Colwell," ongoing. A new museum of masterwork reproductions. The paintings, which cover a wide spectrum of European work from Van Eyck in the 15th cen-

tury to Picasso in the 20th century, are full-scale, faithful copies of works by famous artists of the past, created in an attempt to understand the secrets of these great artists. The museum does not have regular hours. Call ahead. Free. 2028 Ninth St., Berkeley. 510-841-4210 or www.atelier9.com.

THE OAKLAND MUSEUM OF CALIFORNIA — OPENING — "The Art of Fred Martin: A Retrospective, 1948-2003," runs Aug. 2-Dec. 28. It is an exhibit of paintings on board, paper and canvas that spans 50 years and includes 135 works. "Marvin Lipovsky: A Glass Odyssey," through Oct. 12, is a retrospective that spans 40 years of the Berkeley artist's career, including a series of food sculptures and globe-shaped forms made by Lipovsky, one of the founders of the California art glass movement. "Reflections in Black: Smithsonian African American Photography," runs through Aug. 31. This is Part II of an exhibit exploring the history of black photography, 1840 to present. (The other parts are at the Oakland Museum of California and the Mills College Art Museum.) This part, "Art and Activism," features African-American photographers who motivated cultural change while documenting the beginnings of the civil rights and black power movements of the late 1950s and early 1960s and who developed new artistic approaches in photography. Among photographers included are Jonathan Eubanks, Chester Higgins Jr., Lewis Watts, Jean Weisinger and Chandra McCormick. Open through Sept. 21 is "Iconic to Iconic: Fashioning California Identity," an exhibition of more than 100 articles of clothing and accessories from the museum's permanent collection, as well as items from other major museums and private collections, including items from the sportswear and the costumes of Marilyn Monroe, Marlene Dietrich, Michael Jackson, Sharon Stone and Brad Pitt. At the "Onine Museum," 1-4 p.m. Thursdays, explore the museum's collection on videodisks in the History Department Library. Docent Gallery Tours are 1:30 p.m. Saturday-Sunday. Docents offer a variety of specialized tours focusing on one aspect of the museum's permanent collection, 12:30 p.m. Wednesdays. Free with admission.

SPECIAL EVENTS — Free with admission, unless noted otherwise. "Racism: The New Social Activism," 7-10 p.m. Aug. 1. A celebration of hip-hop culture featuring music by Feloniou, DJS Sake 1 and Apollo, a fashion parade, spoken word and a slide presentation of graffiti presented in conjunction with "Reflections in Black: Smithsonian African American Photography." \$10, \$6 general; \$4 seniors and students; free for children age 5 and under. Free to all on Sunday monthly. Museum hours 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday, noon-5 p.m. Sunday and 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Saturday monthly. 1000 Oak St., Oakland. 888-OAK-MUSE or www.museumca.org.

THE PARDEE HOME MUSEUM — The historic Pardee Mansion, a 3-story Italianate villa built in 1868, was home to three generations of the Pardee family, who aided the civic and cultural development of California and Oakland. The home includes house, grounds, water tower and barn. Reservations recommended. \$5 general; free for children under age 12. House tours are hourly noon-3 p.m. Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. 672 11th St., Oakland. 510-444-2187 or www.pardeehome.org.

RICHMOND MUSEUM OF HISTORY — Permanent exhibits highlight Richmond's cultural, industrial and architectural legacy. "Places of Faith and Worship," ongoing, documents the history of the many churches that reflect Richmond's diverse cultures and lifestyles. Free. Open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Wednesday-Sunday. 400 Nevins Ave., Richmond. 510-235-7387.

UC BERKELEY ART MUSEUM — "MATRIX 2007: Suggested North Points," through Sept. 7, is an exhibit of Anna Von Mertens' hand-dyed and hand-stitched nontraditional quilts, detailing her life. Closing Sunday is "MACRO-MATRIX: For Your Pleasure," an exhibit of works by three artists: Cai Guo-Qiang's installation of electric "fireworks," Chihō Aoshima's digital wall mural and Angela Bulloch's animated sculpture, "Geometric Ad-dictions." The exhibit "Turning Corners," through Summer 2004, looks at five centuries of innovative art and ideas from around the world through masterworks from the museum's collection. On view are works by such artists as Albrecht Dürer, Peter Paul Rubens, Paul Gauguin, Jackson Pollock and Eva Hesse, plus recent work by Jeanne Dunning, Xu Bing and Mona Hatoum. \$8 general; \$5 seniors, students and ages 12-18; free for children under age 12 and UC Berkeley students. Free to all first Thursday monthly. Hours 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Wednesday-Sunday (open until 7 p.m. Thursday). 2626 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. 510-942-0808 or www.sampfa.berkeley.edu.

UC BERKELEY, HEARST MUSEUM OF ANTHROPOLOGY — "The World in a Frame: Photographs from the Great Age of Exploration, 1865-1915," through March 2004, is an exhibit of photographs capturing wilderness landscapes of the American West, ancient ruins of the Southwest and architecture in Lebanon, Syria and Egypt. Most images are albumen prints and have not been exhibited for decades. "Native California Cultures," ongoing, is a permanent exhibit of some 500 artifacts from the museum's California collections, the largest and most comprehensive collections in the world devoted to California Indian cultures. The exhibit includes a section about Ishi, the famous Indian who lived and worked with the museum. Yurok canoe carved from a single redwood. "A Century of Collecting," ongoing, examines artifact-collecting as a form of cultural representation, presenting objects from around the world. Displays focus on the systematic character of these collections and provide original contexts for the objects to increase viewers' understand-

NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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ACROSS

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7 It may be called
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21 Drive
22 Methyl or ethyl follower
23 Restaurant options #1
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30 Elates
31 Detective's aids
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38 "So what?"
40 1948 Bogart/Bacall film
42 Restaurant options #2
47 Serves at a restaurant
48 Restaurant options #3
50 Blount in the Football Hall of Fame
51 Sequentially

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DOWN

- 52 Marshal at Waterloo
53 Oman man
55 Crucifixes
59 la la
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62 City SW of Ithaca
64 Opposite of sans
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77 Some etiquette rules
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80 clip
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87 Restaurant options #5
90 Tony-winning writer of "Evita"
94 Restaurant options #6
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97 Cylindrical tools for sailors' gear
98 Broadway far
99 Take, as tea
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102 Toin combatant
107 One may be placed before a king
108 Serious fan groups

ACROSS

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112 "Prince" (Aladdin) song
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118 Former T.V. dog
119 Renaissance musician
120 Push off
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122 Physics unit
123 Chinese calendar animals
124 Praise
125 Fleet

DOWN

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2 Habituate
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5 Makes tracks, in a way
6 Architect Saarinen
7 Arctic intersection
8 Fleur-de-
9 Aerial anomaly, for short
10 Sneez's cause, perhaps
11 Plant with fiddlers
12 In harm's way
13 Popular morning talk show
14 "Dies" —
15 laude
16 Vocal opponents

Dance

ASHKENAZ — The Savoy-Doucet Cajun Band, 9:30 p.m. Aug. 2 with Cajun dance lessons at 8:30 p.m. \$18-\$20. Top Dog Run, Rumen Shopov and Friends, 8:30 p.m. Aug. 5 with Balkan dance lessons at 7:30 p.m. \$10. Flamenco Open Stage, 7:30 p.m. Aug. 10. \$9. 1317 San Pablo Avenue, Berkeley. 510-525-5055 or www.ashkenaz.com.

CAPACITOR — "Digging in the Dirt: The Beta Test," 8 p.m. Aug. 7-10. A juxtaposition of Earth-pounding ritual, modern dance movement and geophysical data. \$15 general; \$10 students. Alice Arts Theater, 1428 Alice St., Oakland. 510-268-9808 or www.capacitor.org.

"DESI ART IN THE DIASPORA" — 7 p.m. Aug. 3. The event will showcase artists of the South Asian diaspora. There will be spoken-word, poetry, theater, dance, film shorts and music performances. \$8-\$10. Oakland Box Theater and Gallery, 1928 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-451-1932 or www.oaklandbox.com.

LA PENA CULTURAL CENTER — Anganza Marimba Ensemble with Julia Tisti Chigamba and the Chinyakara Dance Ensemble, 8:30 p.m. Aug. 1. Traditional music from South Africa accompanies a dance performance influenced by Zimbabwe, Mozambique and South Africa. \$12. 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568 or www.lapena.org.

THE STARRY PLOUGH PUB — "Dance Class & Celi," 7 p.m. Mondays. Traditional Irish music and dance. The Starry Session, 8 p.m. Sundays. Irish traditional music and song led by Shay Black. Sliding scale. For age 21 and over. Dance lesson at 7 p.m.; music at 9 p.m. 3101 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-2082.

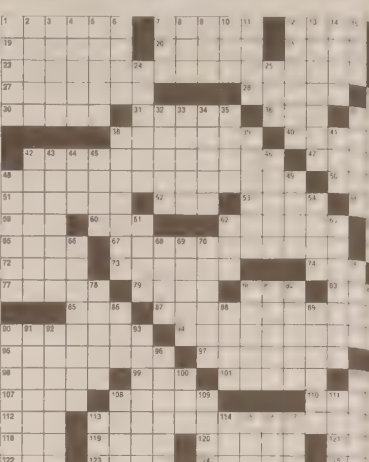
Outdoors

BAY AREA RAIL TRAILS — A network of trails converted from unused railway corridors.

OHLENE GREENWAY — A 3.75-mile paved trail converted from the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe railway suitable for strollers and skaters. It trail runs under elevated BART tracks from Colton and Key Streets in El Cerrito to Virginia and Acton Streets in Berkeley. 510-215-4382, 510-528-5759 or 510-844-6566.

SHEPHERD CANYON TRAIL — A 3-mile paved trail converted from the Sacramento Northern Rail Line, this tree-lined trail slopes gently and generally follows Shepherd Canyon Road. Suitable for walkers and cyclists. Begins in Montclair Valley behind McCaulou's Department Store on Medau Place and ends at Paso Robles Drive, Oakland. 510-238-7275.

BAY AREA RIDGE TRAIL — The Ridge Trail, when completed, will be a 400-mile regional trail system that will form a loop around the entire Bay, linking 75 public parks and open spaces to thousands of people and hundreds of communities. Hikes on portions of the trail are available with the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council. Call for meeting sites.



- 68 Companion of the Natl. Guard
69 Actress — Brewster
70 Some sorority women
75 Prefix with skeleton
78 Hides
80 One who's much praised
81 Modern workout system
82 Rachel Field verse "... Might Lead to Anywhere"
84 Auto introduced in 1959
86 "The Island of the Day Before" writer
88 "Deutschland" — allies
89 Prefix with genesis
90 Beyond what's necessary
91 Nicotrol device
92 Cat's activity
93 As part of a set
96 Ford of fashion fame
100 Liq. measures
102 Sharpener
103 Mag published without paper or ink
104 Soprano Fleming

ALAMEDA COUNTY CYCLING

"Tilden and Wildcat Bike Rides," 5:30 p.m. Wednesdays. A vigorous 15-mile ride through Tilden and Wildcat Canyon Regional Parks. Reservations required. Elevation gain: 2,000 feet. Difficulty: intermediate. Pace: fast. Meets in front of the North Berkeley BART Station. 510-849-9650. "Lake Chabot Bike Rides," 6:15 a.m. Thursdays. These rides are for strong beginners and intermediates to build skill, strength and endurance at a non-headers pace. No one will be dropped. Reservations required. Distance: 14 miles. Elevation gain: 1,000 feet. Difficulty: beginner to intermediate. Pace: moderate. Meeting place: Lake Chabot Road at the main entrance to the park. 510-468-3582. Free. 415-391-9300.

DUNSMUIR HOUSE AND GARDENS

HISTORIC ESTATE — through Sept. 21. Nestled in the Oakland hills, the 50-acre Dunsmuir estate includes the 37-room Neoclassical Revival Dunsmuir Mansion, built by coal and lumber baron Alexander Dunsmuir for his bride. Restored outbuildings set amid landscaped gardens surround the mansion. "Sunday Picnic," noon-3 p.m. Aug. 3 and 17. Bring a picnic basket and enjoy the day at Dunsmuir. Tour the Mansion and enjoy the entertainment. Tours are at 1 and 2 p.m. Entertainment on the Mansion Lawn at 1:15 and 2:15 p.m. Admission \$5 general; \$4 for seniors and youths; free for children under 13. Docents guide visitors through the mansion. See the Tiffany skylight, wood-paneled billiard room, the grand staircase and the dining room. Wear low-heeled, soft-soled shoes. No high heels allowed. 11 a.m.-noon Wednesday. Admission \$5 general; \$4 seniors and youths; free for children under 13. The 50 acres of gardens and grounds are open to the public. Free Self-Guided Grounds Tour booklets are available at Dinkelspiel House. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday. 2960 Ramona Avenue, Dunsmuir. 925-2960 or www.dunsmuirhouseandgardens.org.

KENNEDY GROVE REGIONAL RECREATION AREA — The 95-acre park contains picnic areas, horseshoe pits and volleyball courts among its grove of aromatic eucalyptus trees. \$4 parking. Hours through September: 8-8 daily. San Pablo Dam Road, El Sobrante. 510-223-7840 or www.ebparks.org.

OAKLAND HERITAGE ALLIANCE 23RD ANNUAL WALKING TOURS — through Aug. 31. The 2003 walks cover 16 different Oakland neighborhoods. Reservations are not required. Comfortable walking shoes are recommended, as some walks are hilly. Bring water. In case of rain, tours cancel. Meet 15 minutes before the listed time of each tour to register. At 10 a.m.

Aug. 2: "Modern Downtown Oakland." This tour focuses on downtown examples of modern architecture. Learn about materials, construction methods, detailing and other features. This lengthy walk from 4th to 17th streets offers a chance to learn to love the buildings you used to hate. Meet at 11th Street and Broadway, in front of the Marriott Hotel. 1-3 p.m.

Aug. 1: "Montclair Valley." Explore the history and architecture of Oakland's Montclair Valley, in the hills above the city. Learn Montclair's social, residential and commercial development from the early toll road to the freeway. See such distinctive buildings as the fire station,

the women's club, the theater and the library. This tour up and down a gentle Thornhill Drive and Maynard road across from Montclair Club. At 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Aug. 9: "SplashPad and Take this opportunity." Avenue, Oakland's "Oakland Boulevard." The tour goes Grand Lake Theatre, Grand Avenue community center, the landmark Sonoma and the Veterans Memorial. Also includes the Sonoma development mural, the Berkeley Historic District and the Roy Fountain. Meet at the Lakeview Branch Library, Embarcadero, off Grant of Interstate 580. From 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Aug. 10: "The Lakeshore District." Walk from the Branch Library through the Park to the Lakeshore District, a lovely mix of old, 1920s brick and deco, includes Trestle Glen, a development born in the 1920s that was conceived by a community. Meet in the Lakeview Branch Library, Embarcadero, off Grant of Interstate 580. From 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

OBITUARIES & FUNERAL LISTING

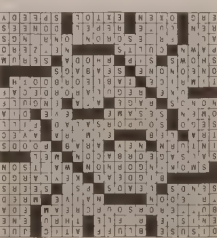
Elsie Wong

GEE, Elsie Wong, passed peacefully but peacefully. 2003. Born in Illinois. was a resident of Kensington for 45 years.

She is survived by her husband; her son and daughter; and Amy Gee, her daughter and son-in-law. David Hinkle of Oakland, grandchildren, Dylan, and Kasha; her brothers and William Wong of John Wong of Milwaukee and Lora Smith of Rose City of San Francisco. Elsie dedicated her life to the development of education as a teacher, administrator. Over her 30 years of service for the Berkeley District, Sonoma County, and California State Education of Young Children as a board member of the Association for the Education of Young Children. Most recently, principal of the Oakland School and of the American School in Hong Kong.

A memorial service celebration will be held on Saturday, August 6, 2003, at 2 p.m. at the Oakland Baptist Church, 11th Street and Broadway, in front of the Marriott Hotel. 1-3 p.m.

Donations in her memory may be made to the American Cancer Society, 11200 Golf Links Road, CA 94605, (800) 422-6237 or www.americanheart.org.



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Friday supplement to The Montclarion, The Piedmonter, The Berkeley Voice, The Journal, The Alameda Journal

Friday, August 1, 2003

Section D

MICHELLE KREBS
She's Freewheeling

ing: A privilege
st Americans
for granted

cleaning my office recently
that every few years — and
cross a printout of an e-mail
my pen pal in Russia. I'd met
1986, a few months after the
Chernobyl nuclear meltdown.

as the only American — and
woman — among the Cana-
journalists hosted by Lada
to visit Russia, specifically
of Togliatti on the Volga
and the plant where the Fiat
cars sold in Canada were

was our translator. She and
I immediately struck up what has
been a life-long friendship. We
knew that, despite being half
apart geographically, and
apart politically, we had far
more in common than not.

Then, she worked tempo-
rarily in the Detroit area for Gen-
erals as a translator on a
pure project. We became
close friends as she spent
time at our house.

At the time of my visit to Russia,
she had already owned a car. In
fact, she had owned an eight-year wait-
ing list to buy one.

Choice of vehicles was
not an issue. Russians could not
afford the amazing array of
vehicles from which Americans can
choose.

Mobile parts, incredibly dif-
ficult to come by, were often stolen
on the road, and subse-
quently sold on the black market.
They would remove their wind-

Freewheeling, Page D3



CHRYSLER PLANS to replace its front-wheel drive 300M full-size sedan with a rear-wheel drive version in 2005. Meantime, the 2004 300M comes in two versions, the base model and the Special which offers better performance.

Chrysler's 300M will be last of full-size front-wheel drive sedans

MOTOR MATTERS

Chrysler's 300M combines elegant styling with dynamic performance, giving this full-size, front-wheel drive vehicle a sport sedan personality.

But the current 300M will soon see the exit door as the automaker readies its replacement for 2005.

The 2004 300M has a base price of \$29,185 while the more performance-oriented 300M Special starts at \$32,615 — and this uplevel model was my tester for the week.

As soon as I got behind the wheel and began to glance around

the inside, the instrumentation panel caught and held my attention.

Simply put, the design on the tachometer, speedometer, fuel and oil readings was elegant and easy on the eyes. I liked the bright-white background rimmed with chrome on each of the round instrument readouts.

New for 2004 is the availability of a \$1,455 GPS navigation program, and a 360-watt sound system including Sirius satellite radio.

My tester had this feature, as well as one of the new exterior colors for 2004 that I thought gave the

CONNIE KEANE
Keane on Wheels

sedan a magnificent richness: mid-night blue pearl coat.

Premium leather seats, leather-wrapped steering wheel and shift knob also added to the rich appointments.

The distinction between the 300M and the 300M Special is performance. The Special has more horsepower and torque, as well as

a sport-tuned suspension. The Special's High Output 3.5-liter V6 powerplant delivers 255 horsepower at 6,500 rpm and 258 pounds-foot of torque at 3,950 rpm.

To achieve these ratings, the automaker recommends the use of premium gasoline.

The four-speed automatic transmission with AutoStick has been performance-tuned to match the higher output of the engine. The engine on the basic 300M produces 250 horsepower and 250 pounds-foot of torque and features a touring-tuned suspension.

The 300M Special's sport-tuned suspension is equipped with firmer performance struts for better handling.

Also available on this model is the Ultimate Performance Tire and Wheel package. It includes aluminum wheels and high-performance Michelin Pilot Sport Unidirectional 18-inch tires, which Chrysler says keeps the suspension "glued" to the road.

The Special is further distinguished by a lowered body height

See KEANE, Page D2

Winter Chevrolet

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2003 CHEVY IMPALA SEDAN

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\$17,288

Example:

\$23,386	MSRP
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\$21,288	Sale Price
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PW, PL, Alloys, AC, 3rd Row Seating, Running Boards, CD & More

\$26,988

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2003 CHEVY SUBURBAN

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Example:

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\$33,488	Sale Price
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Understanding how a car's electric fuel pump operates and how to make it last

KNIGHT RIDER NEWSPAPERS

Q I just had the fuel pump replaced in my Olds Ciera and have some questions for you about it. I was startled to find the fuel pump is in the gas tank.

Why do they do this? It seems dangerous to me to have an electric device in such a flammable location.

I was also told it's bad for the fuel pump to run the car low on gas, and as I have done this quite a few times it may have caused the pump to go bad. Is this true?

How long do fuel pumps last? Is there a way to know in advance one is going out, or do you just drive the car until it quits, stranding you along side the road?

Mike Ferris, Ledyard, Conn.

A Electric fuel pumps are found on all fuel-injected vehicles and a handful of older carbureted models. A fuel-injection system's electric rotary pump is in or near the fuel tank as they are good at pushing fuel but not pulling it.

In many cases the pump is integrated with the fuel gauge sending unit and immersed in the tank.

Depending on the vehicle model, replacement might require removal of the fuel tank or an access plate beneath the back seat or trunk.

Some vehicles have a low-pressure in-tank pump and a high-pressure pump attached to the chassis. In either case the pumps are cooled and lubricated by the fuel passing through them, so running very low or out of fuel is not beneficial to long life.

Mounting the pump within the fuel tank

The first signs of a failing pump are excessive noise or high speed/load power loss. Checking the pump's current waveform is a simple job for a top-notch technician but probably not worth the trouble unless your vehicle has high mileage and is already in for other service.

BRAD BERGHOLDT
Auto QnA

is safe, as the air-fuel ratio within the tank is so rich combustion can't occur.

Electric fuel pumps are usually good for 80,000 to 150,000 miles of service and generally die as a result of sediment, water contamination, or simply wear.

While all electric fuel pumps are somewhat noisy, one that gets louder may be telling you of a restricted fuel filter or worn internal mechanism.

It is possible, with an inductive current clamp and lab scope, to observe an electric fuel pump's current waveform and spot brush and armature (internal electrical) faults before it fails completely.

What can you do to prevent or anticipate fuel pump failure? Your best bet is to change the fuel filter as specified (or sooner on "lifetime" units) as the pump works harder to push through a dirty/restricted fil-

ter, and maintain at least one-quarter tank of fuel at all times.

The first signs of a failing pump are excessive noise or high speed/load power loss. Checking the pump's current waveform is a simple job for a top-notch technician but probably not worth the trouble unless your vehicle has high mileage and is already in for other service.

Owners of Ford vehicles should be aware of the location of their inertia (crash-sensing) switch — usually in the trunk or under the dash.

This black plastic box, about the size of a printer cartridge, opens the fuel pump's electrical circuit when the vehicle incurs a specified impact. Pressing the switch's white reset button will re-enable pump operation and allow the vehicle to be driven.

Brad Bergholdt teaches automotive technology at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. E-mail him at under-the-hood@juno.com or write to him in care of Drive, Mercury News, 750 Ridder Park Drive, San Jose, CA 95190.

Keane

FROM PAGE D1

of one-half inch, dual-exhaust tailpipes, high-intensity discharge headlamps, and body-colored mirrors with integrated turn signals.

The bottom portion of the body has aerodynamic ground effects, giving this full-size vehicle more of a sport sedan look. The interior trim echoes the sporty flair of the exterior with a smart-looking carbon fiber appearance in the door accents and dashboard. Brushed aluminum decorates the door-sill plates.

Safety equipment on the 300M Special includes traction control, anti-lock brakes with electronic brake-force distribution, tire-pressure monitoring, dual front airbags, and three-point seat belts for all five seating positions. Side-impact airbags are optional.

Chrysler discontinues the 300M sometime in 2004. It will be replaced by another full-size sedan based on the 300C concept car. The all-new 2005 model goes into production during the first quarter of next year as a rear-wheel drive vehicle and will include a V8 engine.

The 2005 car could be close to the cur-

rent 300C concept, which Chrysler describes as being reflective of classic styling from the mid-1950s with a long hood, short deck, dramatic profile, and 20-inch tires.

It will coincide with the 50th anniversary of Chrysler's famous "Letter Series" cars. Now could be a good time to make a deal on a 2004 300M.

CHRYSLER 300M

Vehicle TypeFive-passenger front-wheel drive full-size sedan
Suggested Retail Price as Tested\$32,615
Engine TypeSOHC 24-valve, 3.5-liter V6 w/MPFI
Horsepower	250 at 6,400 rpm
Torque	258 @ 3,950 rpm
TransmissionFour-speed automatic
Wheelbase113 inches
Curb Weight3,650 pounds
Fuel Capacity17 gallons
MileageCity/highway 18/27

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PAGE D1

wipers when they parked cars so they would not be

his husband had put his on the waiting list for a car at the factory where he worked. He finally got it in 1996.

the years that have passed my visit to Russia and Irina's in the U.S., her life has been upside down. Her husband died, ironically by a hit-and-run.

knownst to my friend, her husband had been struck as he drove the street to the parking lot to retrieve his car outside of apartment.

my in the street apparently several hours until his brother and his body.

er e-mail, Irina informed me that after her husband's death, his girlfriends forced her to take driving classes (something she hated to do), instead of selling the car as she figured she could.

recently as three years ago she wrote her e-mail, Russia to female drivers.

as my friend pointed out, in Russia, the automotive capital of the world and home to what once was the largest auto plant, "having a car is almost indecent. I could give it a try."

as a trying experience in driving in the craziest dream through all the unpleasant experiences, a beginner could be hitting other cars, occasionally with road police fines (mainly for allowing a car to sit in the front seat for more than 12) — a number of emotional experiences.

and, Irina was glad she could drive, particularly for the long journey to her cottage.

started (driving), the feeling almost inexplicable and hard to none: you make this complicated structure and it moves, and you are in the wheel, and people think it's a casual thing to you. To drive a car is a very natural thing, right?"

That was what was most about her e-mail. We — men, adults, teens — take a car and we will drive, and we will own a car.

recently coached my

daughter how to drive, I realized how natural driving had become. She would ask me simple questions about maneuvers, such as which way to turn the steering wheel to go in this direction or that I actually had to stop and think about it.

her son. She began allowing him to drive at age 12 on country roads. She told me she had to place a pile of clothing beneath his bottom so he could see out the windshield. "You should see his face when he changes gears and stares at the road ahead. The earlier he gets familiar with a car, the better."

We take so much for granted.

Winter Honda

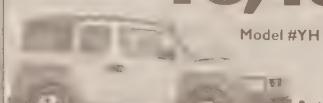
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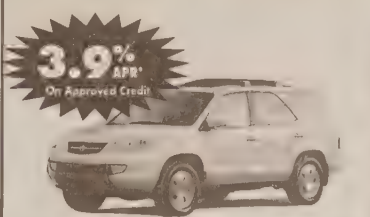
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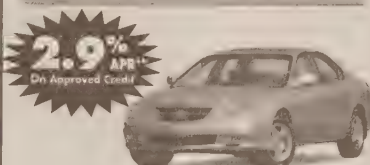
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2004 Lexus RX 330 is now a bigger and better crossover vehicle

MOTOR MATTERS

Lately, the most successful sport utility vehicles haven't been SUVs — at least in the pure sense. The hottest market has been the crossover category — part station wagon, part sport utility.

The Lexus RX 300 was among the first and best to work the luxury end of that street. Now, Lexus has rolled out the sequel, dubbed the RX 330.

The philosophy behind the RX's success is simple. Most SUV buyers don't drive off-road. They like the utility look and room, and the northerners in the crowd would prefer to not get stuck in a snow storm.

Upscale customers have long wished for something like a four-wheel drive version of their favorite luxury sedan. That pretty well described the RX 300, which is why it was Lexus' best seller from day one of its production.

The RX 330 is longer and wider than the model it replaces. The 6-inch stretch is matched by almost 4 inches of additional wheelbase length. The difference in dimensions means more room for cargo.

Fold the 40/20/40 rear seat down and you can fit 84.7 cubic feet of cargo on board, 38.3 with the second row up. Inside, the handsome cabin seats four adults in comfort — five in a pinch.

Small storage spots abound, but no third-row seating is available. The new Lexus has a fresh dash design that's modern and upscale.

The switchgear is well placed, though the mid-dash array is a bit too button-busy to take in quickly while driving. Noteworthy here is the optional DVD navigation system.

Most of these systems are fine on main roads, but should you venture into a small town or back country areas, the map looks like a radar screen over open ocean. There's you and ... nothing. The Lexus version is impressive for its fine level of detail. It knows more street names than a New York City caddy.

It even covers your back: A rear back-up camera projects a color picture of what's directly behind you onto the navigation screen when you shift into reverse. A DVD entertainment system is optional, in case you wish to keep passengers amused while in transit.

If you have a weakness for high-tech options, hold onto your check book when ordering. The RX 330 has a bucketful of new tech extras. In addition to the naviga-

DAN LYONS

Get Off the Road

tion/rearview camera mentioned above, the list includes headlights that swivel to light the way as your wheels turn, and an adaptive cruise control system that automatically adjusts to keep you at a constant distance from vehicles in front.

In the Lexus lexicon, model numbers equal engine displacement, so we can deduce that the RX 330 is powered by a 3.3 liter V6. It produces 230 horsepower and more importantly, 242 pounds-foot of torque.

It is smooth at all speeds and matches nicely with the five-speed automatic transmission. The company claims a 0-60 mph time of 7.8 seconds, and EPA rates gas mileage for the all-wheel drive version at 18 city and 24 highway. Those numbers put the RX among the better performers in its class.

A front-wheel drive version is offered as well, and base prices are \$35,025 (FWD) and \$36,425 (AWD). Like the model it replaced, the RX 330 is more of an all-season driver than it is an off-road machine.

A stiffer chassis and upgraded suspension lend a smooth ride. Handling is good for the breed, though the steering feel is a little numb.

With the optional Air Suspension system, drivers can lower the vehicle slightly for improved handling, or easier loading/unloading of cargo. You can also "raise 'er up" to better handle light off-roading.

Though the optional all-wheel drive system is new, it operates the same way as the former unit. When wheel slip is detected, the system uses a center differential to automatically shift power front to rear and side to side as needed. And, equipped with the optional tow package, the RX is rated to pull 5,000 pounds.

When it launched in model year 1999, the Lexus RX 300 helped define the breed of car-based, luxury hybrids. And even as this niche ballooned faster than a bank line on a payday lunch hour, the RX 300 remained among the best in the segment.

The RX 330 is a noticeable notch better than its predecessor. Comfortable, luxurious and technologically advanced, the new Lexus is (as the old Lexus was) one of the classiest rides in the upscale, crossover class.



THE NEW LEXUS RX 330 continues the trend of its successful predecessor, the RX 300, in providing a comfortable, luxurious crossover vehicle that can do light off-road duty.

Towe Auto Museum display features micro and minicars

THE TOWE AUTO MUSEUM

SACRAMENTO — A collection of small and unusual motor vehicles are on display at The Towe Auto Museum through Aug. 30.

What is a Micro-Minicar? Simply put, they are cars of a smaller stature. Typically they were imported to the U.S. from countries where fuel costs have always been high and older infrastructures have remained small.

Roads are sometimes little more than alley-ways between closing buildings. These are cars that played a crucial part in bringing affordable transportation to the masses in many post warfront countries.

Many of the cars did not enjoy much success in America, where we haven't often felt the need for such minimal transportation as one-, two-, or small four-cylinder cars.

The few that managed to trickle in, however, are an important part of automotive history.

The innovators who built these small cars actually pioneered many of the technologies present in our modern cars. Advancements that were ahead of their time include: unibody construction, independent suspension, front-wheel drive, rack-and-pinion steering, split-folding rear seats, fully synchronized transmissions and even some constant velocity transmissions.

Most all of them showed carefully

thought out designs making use of every available space.

It wasn't enough to simply transport passengers. They were often required to haul substantial, (for their size), amounts of cargo and sometimes, even transform into quite comfortable sleeping accommodations.

Most of the cars displayed are from the private collection of Tony Grillo, although member cars from the Micro Car and Mini Car Club, Inc., Small Wonders Car Club and the Rear Engine Fiat Club also are included.

All of the cars are crowd pleasers and this is your chance to see many different makes and models at one time. The display is entertaining as well as informative. Bring the kids to see these just-their-size cars and make it a family outing.

For more information, contact Samantha Lohmann at The Towe Auto Museum, 916-442-6802.

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Mitsubishi powers up with 2004 models that offer flexibility and fun

MOTOR MATTERS

Recent products from Mitsubishi have been criticized by auto writers and are alike for being somewhat under-

erated. he folks at Mitsubishi took the criticism seriously and responded — not only with power, but with several new model

nts that offer more flexibility and are a

ore fun to drive

Mitsubishi's participation in high-perfor-

mance is as familiar to rally enthusiasts as

and orange striped Ralliart logo. New

2004 Ralliart versions of the 2004

er and Sportback, both with a long list

ual and performance modifications.

The exterior appearances of both vehi-

have been beefed up with side air

and unique fog lamps, and the

er Ralliart features a rear spoiler. In-

driver and passenger are held in place

front sport bucket seats sourced from

Japanese-market Evolution GT-A.

The Lancer Sportback adds five-door

to the expanding line of high-energy

cars. Based on the Lancer sedan and

ed up to haul the whole family, the

back offers an alternative to the af-

DAVE VAN SICKLE
Down the Road

fordable compact sport wagon.

With the rear seat folded, both Lancer and Sportback trim lines can swallow 60.7 cubic feet of cargo, easily offering all the space necessary for weekend errands and shopping. It competes with the Mazda Protege 5, Ford Focus and Toyota Matrix.

For the performance enthusiast, the Ralliart label means more than appearance. Lancer and Sportback Ralliart both come equipped with a 2.4-liter, SOHC, 16-valve inline four-cylinder MIVEC engine. It puts out 162 horsepower and 162 pounds-foot of torque. Part of the additional power is from a freer-flowing exhaust system, which features a larger-diameter exhaust pipe, and a large-volume catalytic converter and muffler.

Ralliart models benefit from improved suspension, quicker steering, and larger four-wheel disc brakes.

The Lancer's 5-speed manual transmission takes full advantage of the engine's

capabilities and is a blast to drive, thanks to a sport shifter assembly — borrowed from the Lancer Evolution — which provides shorter throws for improved shift action. Unfortunately, the Sportback comes only with a four-speed automatic. For such a sporty vehicle, this is truly sad.

And now the Outlander suddenly becomes quicker, thanks to an upgrade to the new 2.4-liter inline four-cylinder engine found in both Ralliart models. It uses what Mitsubishi calls MIVEC (Mitsubishi Innovative Valve timing and lift Electronic Control) technology to electronically change valve timing to improve low-end torque and high-end efficiency.

The upgraded engine is mated to a four-speed "Sportronic" transmission that can operate in traditional fully automatic mode, or the driver may choose to actuate clutchless shifts for more spirited driving.

Based on the Lancer sedan and beefed up to haul the whole family, the Sportback offers an alternative to the affordable compact sport wagon.

The INVEC-II programming of the electronically controlled automatic transmission "learns" a driver's throttle inputs and adapts to them by modifying its shift pattern.

Drivers who give aggressive throttle inputs are rewarded with faster, higher-rpm shifts, while more laid-back drivers will find smoother, lower-rpm shifts.

A four-position shift lever with a sports-mode gate allows drivers to experience sporty, positive-feeling manually actuated shifts with a simple push or pull of the shift lever.

But there's more to the new Outlander

than just the engine. It is noticeably improved. Noise factor, whether it be from wind, road, or just interior resonance, has been much reduced since the first introduced product.

Fit and finish inside and outside seem better. Overall, equipped with either two- or four-wheel drive, this is a nice, practical little crossover SUV.

But the real action is with the Lancer and Sportback models. These are great cars for the youth market. They're economical and fun to drive and should appeal to kids and old foggies alike.

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'00 HONDA ODYSSEY Auto, AC, PW, ABS, Cass., Roof Rack #542594 \$18,750	'00 HONDA CR-V SE 4WD Auto, AC, Leather, PW, ABS, CD, Alloys #526063 \$18,750	'02 HONDA ODYSSEY Auto, ABS, PW, CD, Rear AC #526063 \$21,475

Walnut Creek Honda
2555 North Main Street
Walnut Creek, CA 94597
866-587-5444

Map showing location of Walnut Creek Honda at the intersection of North Main Street and Concord Avenue.

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1973 Buick Estate Wagon came loaded with options

MOTOR MATTERS

In the spring of 1973, a willow green Buick Estate Wagon left the General Motors factory in Wilmington, Del., bound for the Scranton Buick dealership in Pennsylvania.

The initial owner purchased the car April 2, 1973, and drove it sparingly, somehow managing to avoid wintertime road salt and corrosive chemicals. After 27 years, the odometer on the rust-free car had recorded only 25,000 miles.

That's when the pristine wagon was sold to its second owner who promptly took the car to Maryland. The Buick continued to receive special treatment, but was driven more frequently.

The car had another 12,000 miles on it 18 months later when the owner advertised the wagon for sale in July 2001. About that time, Jamie Steve decided that an old station wagon would be ideal for transporting his mountain bike.

Steve thought a wagon with flanks covered with wood-patterned vinyl would be perfect. Enlisting the aid of a trusted friend who is antique-automobile knowledgeable, Steve went to inspect the Buick. It was better than advertised.

"Everything was original," Steve recalls, "and everything was perfect."

He was about to tell the seller that he would think about it overnight and inform him of his decision the next day when his car-savvy companion took him aside and whispered, "The car won't be here tomorrow. Better take it now."

Steve was easily convinced and left a deposit on the outstanding Buick. He re-

VERN PARKER
Classic Classics

turned to claim his prize a couple of days later accompanied by his encouraging friend and a neighbor couple.

Driving the 4,952-pound Estate Wagon home filled with friends, Steve did the only natural thing. "We stopped at a Dairy Queen," he says. "It was a warm, summer night and ice cream at a Dairy Queen brought back great memories."

The only problem that night was finding a parking space big enough to accommodate the vehicle, which is an eye-lash shy of 20 feet long.

The original window sticker was in the car, so Steve knows that, in addition to the base price of \$4,668.40, this particular Buick has extra accessories that total almost half the base price of the car.

Accessories include: auto climate control A/C, Sonomatic AM/FM eight-track, custom noteback seat, wood grain applique, power windows, six-way power seat, luggage rack, electric door locks, cruise master, Soft Ray tinted glass, tilt steering wheel, L76x15 white sidewall tires, power tailgate door, cornering lights, accessory group, front/rear bumper guards, custom door window frames, deluxe wheel covers, front lamp monitors, speed alert/trip odometer, carpet savers/handy mats, remote control left mirror and deluxe steering wheel.

To this total of \$2,099.75 was added a \$132 destination charge, bringing the total



THIS 1973 BUICK ESTATE station wagon remains in pristine condition despite its age. New owner continues the TLC car has received since new, deciding to buy a different used wagon to haul his mountain bike.

sticker price of the car to the princely sum of \$6,900.15.

Government-mandated emissions apparatus virtually strangled the 455-cubic-inch V8 to an output of 225 horsepower. A total of 12,282 of the 1973 Buick Estate Wagons were built with two seats like the one Steve has. Almost twice as many were delivered — for an extra \$145 each — with a third seat.

"The car is a time capsule," Steve says.

Bulky eight-track tapes found at garage sales work just fine when inserted into the sound system — after the few seconds it takes to get the machinery up to speed.

Steve acknowledges that he has succumbed to that rare malady known as

"wagon fever." He can't bring himself to load his dirty mountain bike into the Buick. Because it has survived 30 years in pristine condition, why should he despoil this flower?

"It's too nice to haul anything," he says. "The original floor mats aren't even worn." Consequently, he purchased a late-model station wagon that he uses to transport his mountain bike.

"My family always had Volkswagens, but somebody else's dad up the block always had one of these wood-sided wagons and he would take us to the Dairy Queen," Steve remembers. He intends to keep that tradition alive with a singular caveat: "Nobody eats inside."

Keep your car in good condition by changing the oil at the correct intervals

Price is right but glamour is gone for the utilitarian Buick Century sedan

BY MARK PHELAN
KNIGHT RIDER NEWSPAPERS

The Buick Century sedan is a bargain-priced, solid, unexceptional car and a case study in why Buick needs to reinvent itself.

For most of the last century, people aspired to own a Buick. The brand wasn't Cadillac or Mercedes, but its big sedans and stylish convertibles were a step ahead of the everyday car.

You might say a Buick was the equivalent of today's Audi or Acura, vehicles that aren't as exclusive and desirable — some might say pretentious — as Mercedes or Lexus but not something you see in the Avis lot. Buicks were big, fast, expensive and pretty.

Buick stood for something: success without vanity, power without presumption.

The 2003 Century sedan I tested is none of those things.

It's a utilitarian six-passenger mid-size with a measly 175-horsepower V6, an attractive price and a reputation for high

quality.

That's a far cry from the curvaceous 1941 Century movie star Cary Grant owned and posed with for publicity photos.

Today's Century — nearing the end of its life after six years in production — is an undistinguished sedan that sells primarily on the strength of a low price and its high standing in independent quality surveys.

In 2002, the Century topped cars like the Toyota Camry and Honda Accord in the J.D. Power Initial Quality Survey, which is used to make comparisons by automakers around the world. It slipped from the top three in this year's survey, but its kissing cousin, the Buick Regal, finished second in the premium mid-size segment — a category it shares with the Century.

Despite a pronounced tendency to disappear into the wallpaper, the Century Standard model I tested makes Buick's case for value.

The base price is \$20,595 (excluding shipping charges), but make your best deal and throw in GM's \$3,000 rebate, and the

actual price is likely to be \$16,514, according to Edmunds.com, which compiles data about sales prices of new and used cars.

That's hundreds of dollars less than you'd pay for a well-equipped Honda Civic or even a Kia Optima sedan, according to Edmunds' database.

That's the Century's strength, but Buick's weakness. GM doesn't want people buying Buicks because they're cheap. It wants people to yearn for a Buick, but

See CENTURY, Page D7

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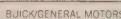
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PAGE D6

Century isn't the car for that.

The 3.1-liter V6 is fine for running errands, but just adequate for passing or merging onto the freeway. Step on the gas, and the engine labors as the four-speed automatic transmission works its way up through the gears.

Despite its laggardly performance, the truck's EPA fuel economy numbers are exceptional 20 city miles per gallon 24 highway.

The brakes feel firm and progressive, giving good feedback and inspiring reasonable confidence. Antilock brakes are optional, however. That aids affordability but damages the Century's credibility as a safe vehicle.

The interior can accommodate six people in comfortable, cloth-covered seats. You wouldn't want to be the middle person, front or back, for a long ride. The truck also throws in a few upscale touches as standard equipment — a CD player, dual zone climate control and power windows with remote keyless entry.

Century's steering was surprisingly good, providing appropriate assistance but without the numb, sloppy feeling that used to plague GM's mid-size cars.

four-wheel independent suspension clearly set up for maximum comfort, the car swallows individual bumps and potholes with aplomb, but the Civic is badly if you try to take a corner

Short, it may be a good buy, but it's not a good Buick.

part of reinventing itself, Buick hopes
an economic way to build the Ben-
convertible concept seen at 2001
ows

Just turned 100 years old, and the minds at General Motors Corp. think we finally figured out what the brand is when it grows up.

wants owners to aspire to Buicks
way people aspire to own an Acura
s: That would move the brand back
so it was for much of the 20th cen-
men Buicks were known as luxury
for people who wanted something
understated than a brash Cadillac.

plan is to make the styling mainstream but distinctive — somewhere between today's vanilla Buick and hot-sauce GMC — add some legitimate luxury and more powerful engines and more trucks on the way to 500,000 a year.

... sold 432,017 vehicles last year, 1468 of them trucks.

In the next few years, at least half of GM's model line will consist of sport-vehicles, crossover wagons and a kind of pickup, well-informed sources

had never sold a truck until its
SUV bowed in 2000, but the
accounted for nearly all the brand's
growth last year.

Rendezvous stands to gain more momentum this fall when a new V6 injects badly needed horsepower with the model.

It gets its second truck this fall, the Silverado SUV, a cousin of the Chevy Trail-

is reportedly also in line for a mid-size truck like the Subaru Baja sports a low-slung four-door with a small bed and minimal payload capacity. They call that model the LaCrosse, a 2000 concept car.

On the car side, GM is still desperately
find an economical way to build
Bengal, a spry little convertible
that toured the auto show circuit

It's full-size LeSabre will probably go rear-wheel-drive when a new drives in 2005 or '06.

Century name will disappear in 2005 after a new, upscale version of the mid-size Regal goes on sale.

BUICK CENTURY

Body type: Front-wheel-drive, six-seat sedan

As tested price: \$20,595

sted: \$22,415

Standard equipment: Front air bags; door locks and remote keyless engine; climate control with rear air; power windows; tilt steering wheel; cassette stereo; alarm system; day-running lamps; auxiliary power outlet; 6-disc CD/cassette player; OnStar location system; power driver seat; power rear seat.

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MSRP	\$22,470
LITHIA DISCOUNT	\$1,471
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MSRP	\$30,550
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4X4 SLT AUTO

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2000 Dodge Stratus ES Sedan.....\$8,995 #1120P	2001 Dodge Dakota V6 Sport.....\$10,995 #5714P	1999 Dodge Durango SLT 4x4.....\$15,995 #1073A	1999 Chevy Tahoe LS 4WD.....\$18,995 #5702P
1997 Dodge Caravan SE Sport.....\$8,995 #5586P	1999 Dodge Dakota V6 Sport 4x4.....\$10,995 #5654P	1999 Ford F250 SupCab 4x2 Lariat.....\$15,995 #5636P	1999 Lincoln Navigator 4WD.....\$24,995 #5616P
1999 Mazda B2500 SE Cab Plus.....\$9,995 #1177P	2002 Pontiac Grand Prix GT Cpe.....\$12,995 #5476P	2002 Jeep Wrangler Hard Top.....\$16,995 #5470P	2003 Ford Expedition XL.....\$26,995 #1136A

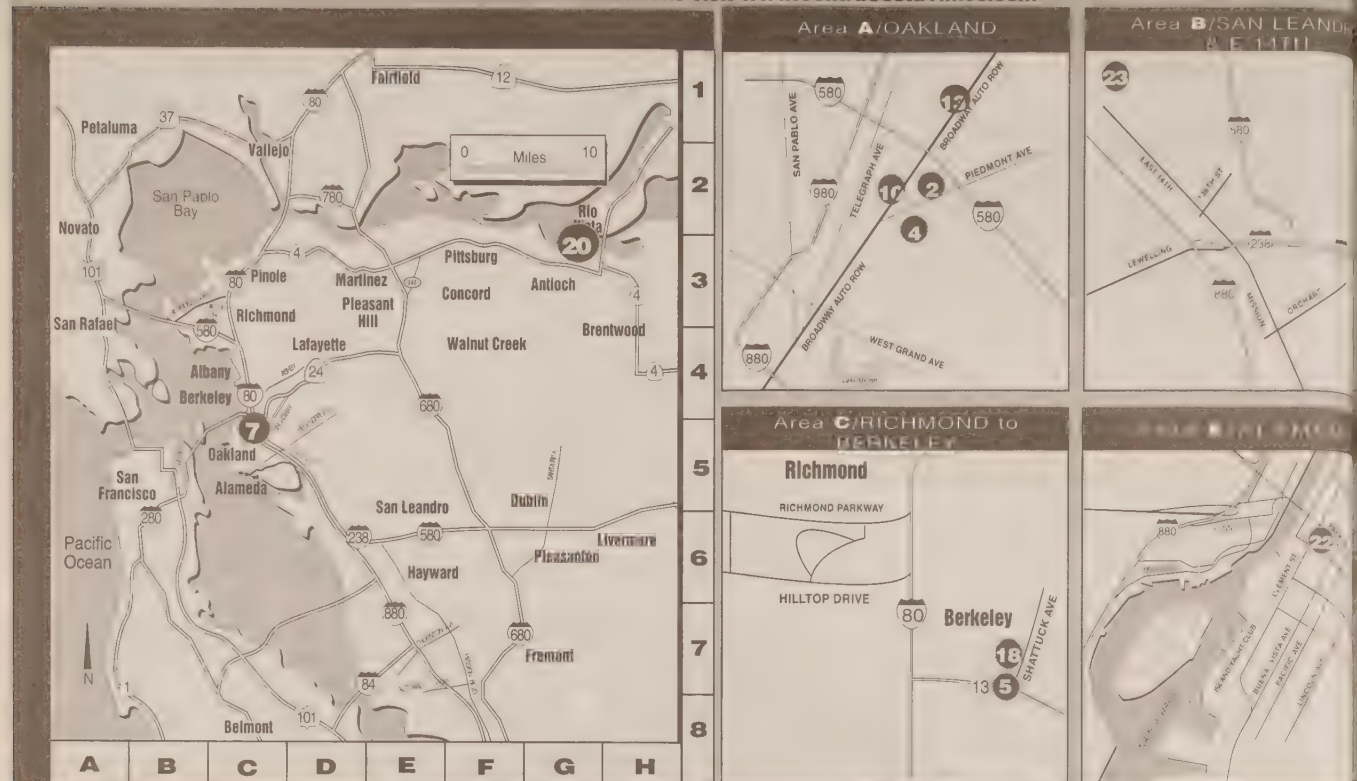
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Where is

your dream home?

Real Estate & Home

Advertising supplement to The Alameda Journal

Friday, September 14, 2001

Weekly Home Sales Maintain your focus on the East Bay real estate scene [B7]

Open Home Guide See what's on sale in your neighborhood [B8]

Now is the time to prepare for the inevitable 'Big One'

A Victorian or typical wood-cladding that sits on its foundation can be fixed. A building that sits on the ground can't. When you build, you build on the ground.



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Pets

CAIRN terrier, pup, 1st. 925-777-1005

CANARY Cocker, muti-ated. 925-777-1005

CAT SUPER CUTE CALICO. 925-777-1005

CHESSPEAKE Pups, AKC. 925-777-1005

CHIHUAHUA, 2 fms, 2 m. 925-777-1005

CHIHUAHUA adorable/tiny. 925-777-1005

CHIHUAHUA Pups, AKC. 925-777-1005

COCKATIES, grays, 1 yr. 925-777-1005

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Rabbits

RABBIT Babes Min lot. 925-777-1005

RAT TERRIER puppies. 925-777-1005

RETRIEVER Chow mix, 4 yrs. 925-777-1005

ROTTWEILER Pups, AKC. 925-777-1005

SAVE SLEDGOS. 925-777-1005

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SHIH TZU pups, AKC. 925-777-1005

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SIAM Pups, AKC. 925-777-1005

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Antiques

ANTIQUE oak 1 cfr. sawn. 925-777-1005

DUCK Decoy, old, wood-ene. 925-777-1005

WANTED Keychain Bros. Jr. 925-777-1005

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What
are

driving?

Auto Plus

Advertising supplement to The Montclair Voice, The Berkeley Voice, The Journal, The Alameda Journal

Friday, August 24, 2001

Section D

Classic Classics: MGB still going strong [D3]

DAVE VAN SICKLE

Most gas-saving gadgets fall short of touted claims

When gasoline prices began to rise, so do motorists' concerns about fuel economy.

Not so coincidentally, a jump in gas prices is often accompanied by vigorous advertising of gas-saving gadgets supported by claims that

they will save money. But when you actually use them, the results are often disappointing.

After evaluating over 100 alleged gas-saving devices, the EPA has

found only a few that actually improve fuel economy, and none that

improve fuel economy by more than 1 percent.

The automakers' claims are often based on a few different categories of devices, but the EPA

found that most of them are ineffective. The only ones that



ACURA RSX TYPE-S is a fun-to-drive sports car to drive and much roomier and less noisy than expected. There is a bit of body roll when cornering, but it's easy to control.

Acura RSX makes shifting much more enjoyable

TOM KEANE

comes with only a six-speed manual transmission. The close-ratio gearbox is exceptionally easy to shift, putting the driver in control of the car's speed.

The RSX isn't a fast power window or a fast power door, but the combination of the engine and gearbox makes driving

totally enjoyable. It's a fun-to-drive car, especially on winding roads.

Twisting around turns took a little longer than I'd expected, but the RSX's suspension is

quite good. The RSX's suspension is quite good, but the RSX's

steering is quite good. The RSX's steering is quite good, but the RSX's

handling is quite good. The RSX's handling is quite good, but the RSX's

ride is quite good. The RSX's ride is quite good, but the RSX's

overall performance is quite good. The RSX's overall performance is quite good, but the RSX's

fuel economy is quite good. The RSX's fuel economy is quite good, but the RSX's

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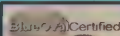
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Truly Amazing Cakes

BY NICK PERRY
THE SEATTLE TIMES

SEATTLE — Mike McCarey took a strange order for a cake last fall. A customer wanted a 10-foot-long cake, a strand replica. The double he needed to be scientifically perfect — the cake was to honor Francis Crick, who helped to discover the molecule's structure 50 years ago.

Because it was too long to ship in one piece, McCarey split the 10-foot cake in half, then had an assistant undertake some gene-splicing to make it whole again when it reached its destination at a San Diego genome laboratory.

Just another order for McCarey, the Redmond business, Mike's Amazing Cakes, specializes in the unusual. Recent cakes have included an \$11,000 replica of a Disney hotel, a Zamboni machine for Stanley Cup hockey winners and a 5-foot-long Ferrari replica.

This month, McCarey won a fancy wedding-cake contest and placed at a culinary festival in Silver Creek, Colo. Five top cake bakers, including McCarey, were invited to participate by cake designer and author Colette Peters of Chocolatier Magazine publisher Michael Schneider. The participants were given five hours to decorate a 10-inch cake in front of an audience.

McCarey used an art-deco pattern which featured metallic colors and a leopard motif.

He was clean, quick, efficient and meticulous," said Regina Callot, a local pastry-competition organizer who attended the event.

McCarey sculpts his creations in heavy mix he likens to pound cake. He uses a butter cream to



JOHN LOK/SEATTLE TIMES

hold them together and finishes them with fondant and air-brushed edible dyes. Each cake is unique and can range in price from \$17 for a six-inch round to thousands of dollars. His business, which has five employees, creates about 500 wedding cakes and 1,000 specialty cakes each year. His niche lies in recreating objects in perfect detail. To achieve that goal, he will ask for building blueprints or car manuals, he said.

Customers range from large corporations and wealthy clients — including some in Europe — to local couples who want something different for their wedding. One Seattle

couple asked for a wedding cake depicting three paint cans to fit with their home-renovation theme.

McCarey, 42, was a pastry chef for 11 years before starting his own business nine years ago.

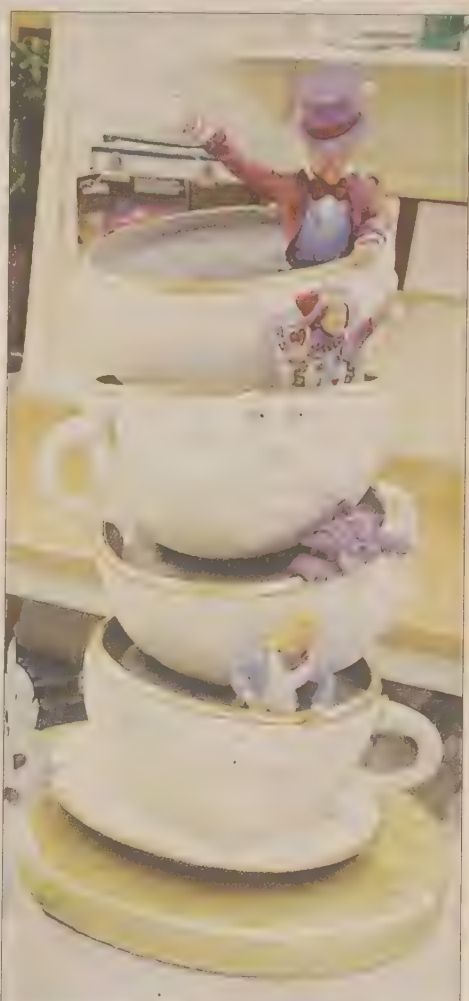
"The grind of working at hotels and making Danish for 500 at 5 a.m. was not turning my artistic wheels," McCarey said.

Shipping cakes around the country occasionally results in disaster, such as when a forklift driver spiked a crate, he said. Some customers choose to have their cake rather than eat it, like the company CEO who prohibited his staff from sticking a knife into a likeness of

MIKE MCCAREY WORKS on a travel-themed cake at his bakery in Redmond, Washington, above. Note the intricate detail on his Alice and Wonderland cake, right.

himself, preferring instead to keep the cake in his freezer for posterity. But for most people, eating the cake comes as a pleasant finale, McCarey said.

"A common misconception is that if it looks good, it doesn't taste good," he said. "One of the things that really surprises people is that they really enjoy eating it as well."



JOHN LOK/SEATTLE TIMES

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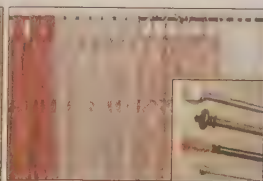
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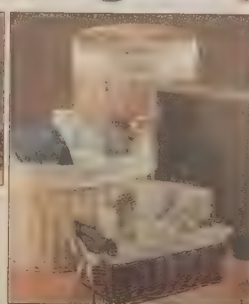
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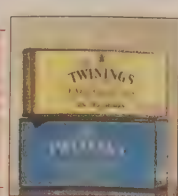


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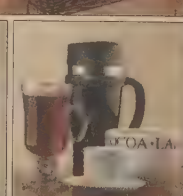
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When your life needs the aid of a coach

BY BOB CONDR
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

CHICAGO — Sometimes the breakthrough step in life comes from making the decision to stay put, even if it does mean your winters will be colder and longer.

That's what happened for Chicago native Simone Vandenberg. No, her decision wasn't to remain in the Midwest and tolerate the potential deep freeze from November through April.

Vandenberg, 38, is a management consultant based in Bergen, Norway. Her heart had been calling her back to Chicago in recent years, or at least a move stateside to be closer to relatives. Just too many missed holidays and ordinary days with friends and family.

Rather than make a decision strictly on emotion, Vandenberg hired someone from the rapidly evolving field of life coaches, John Blattner, who is based in Downers Grove, Ill.

As a consultant, Vandenberg didn't think it at all strange or self-involved or a sign of weakness to explore her options with Blattner, who is a trained life coach and clinical psychologist.

The two met face to face once or twice a year when Vandenberg was home for a visit, otherwise they talked by phone regularly.

"She asked me to help explore her personal lifestyle," Blattner said. "One main question was whether to stay in Norway or come back. The other was whether to get married."

The answers? Vandenberg decided to buy a townhouse in Bergen and put down roots there. The marriage question remains, but she is in a steady relationship and has "created adventure" by fulfilling a long-held promise to herself to travel around Europe more frequently.

It has been 18 months since Vandenberg and Blattner have talked, but he has communicated with some family members in the Chicago area.

"She's enjoying the decision to stay, she has definitely made roots," Blattner said.

"Life coaches" became part of the cultural vocabulary 11 years ago when some enterprising Americans started the first association of advisers to help clients with matters ranging from living situations to job choices to relationships to daily schedules. Scores of job-training institutes, many with on-line courses, have jump-started the industry since 1992.

To say the movement has encountered resistance is understatement.

"Some people are skeptical because they stick to the old notion that you do it on your own," said Alan Graham, a Park Ridge, Ill., life coach and psychologist who specializes in attention-deficit disorder.

"A coach is in your corner, totally devoted to you."

Graham said a growing body of psychology research points to resilient individuals as more healthy, stable and successful.

"Families are more spread out these days," he said. "A person is more resilient when someone believes in him or her. A coach can be the one to believe in you."

The International Coach Federation now reports that more than 5,500 members have completed course work at sanctioned coaching programs. That's more than double the number of members in 2001.

Further proof of burgeoning supply and demand is the growing number of trained clinical psychologists who are entering the field. Another indicator is that individuals who have been highly successful in first careers such as business, law or education are now training to become life coaches. Plus, some life coaches have determined that there is enough interest to warrant specialty coaching practices in such areas as infertility and in parenting children with attention-deficit disorder.

In all instances, life coaches, also called personal coaches, help clients "set better goals, take more action, make better decisions and more fully use their natural strengths," according to the coach federation.

"I believe the client is creative, resourceful and whole," said Ioanna Chaney, a Chicago-based life coach who operates Forward Alliance. "A competent coach looks at the client's whole life, even if the primary motivation is career. We will explore career, financial strength, health/fitness, relationships, personal growth and having fun. We will also look at environment, whether you are in the best city and neighborhood, right down to your desk and work space."

Chaney said her client list includes "Generation Xers" who are unhappy in first careers and retirees who are making the transition from work to having more fun.

"I regularly work with a client's self-defeating aspect, maybe the voice of a mother," Chaney said. "I focus on helping a person find his or her strengths and manage the weaknesses."

The rise in personal coaches has been spurred by demand for their services. People such as Brian and Susan Price of Naperville, Ill., are early innovators in using a "marriage coach" and have already recommended their adviser, Doug McKinley, to several friends.

The Prices pay their coach \$350 a month for a package that started with an intensive two-day "life leadership summit" and continues with weekly phone conferences.

"Doug really gets us to think

about our marriage," said Brian Price, 43, a senior manager for a company that sets up customer service phone centers for corporations. "It's been an eye-opener working with him. You can take a lot of stuff for granted."

McKinley's work with the Prices is not as a therapist or consultant. The distinctions are important to the majority of life coaches.

A therapist would be "be looking for pain," said McKinley, perhaps focusing on past hurts.

"I am looking for what you want," said McKinley, who operates the Life Leadership Coaching firm in Naperville, Ill. "People come to me with what they call problems or issues. I reframe it for them. I ask, 'What do you want?' For the Prices, it meant more sharing of emotions."

"Both of us have been afraid of hurting the other one's feelings," said Susan Price, 41. "We were keeping a lot inside. Doug is helping us set time aside to talk and become better listeners."

But McKinley has not dictated any marital repairs.

"If someone is trying to tell you what to do, that person is a consultant and not a coach," McKinley said. "The coach is neutral and not directing."

Susan Price said weekly calls from McKinley provide time for checking up on whether the couple met their goals for the week.

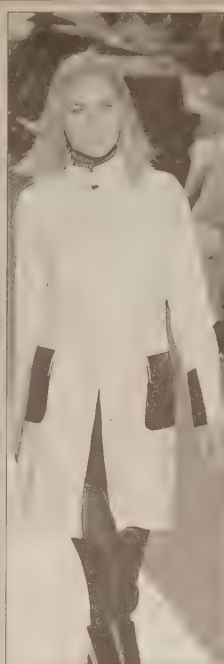
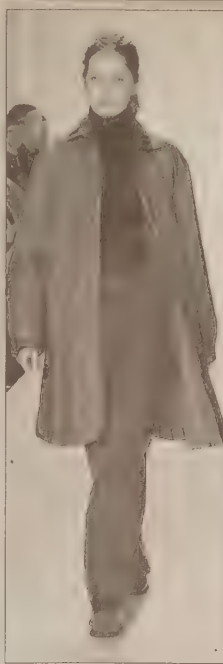
There might be a review of "homework," such as describing what "open communication" means (Brian wrote his description while Susan put together a magazine photo collage of couples who appeared happy and deeply connected).

Then there is always time to discuss what the couple wants to work on next.

"The first thing we did was work on consistency in planning dates by looking at our calendars for three months out," Susan said. "Later on, we worked on the more difficult goal of each person spending five minutes a day sharing feelings while the other one listens."

"Doug keeps us accountable," Brian said. "He helps us develop action steps."

For example, when the couple were struggling to openly share feelings for that five daily minutes, McKinley and the Prices brainstormed possible solutions. One idea that has clicked is each spouse regularly calls the other on their cell phones solely to see how his or her day is going. No other agenda, such as who picks up the groceries or calls the contractor. The couple has added regular walks and even card games as ways to connect.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY FRONZA

Keep your cool in classy fall coats

There may be a chill in the autumn air, but this season's coats will definitely keep the forecast hot.

Say goodbye to basic black outerwear — coats for the season are anything but basic.

LEFT ABOVE: Hong Kong Trade showcased its knee-length coat in plum, a hue that will dominate this fall's fashion.

AT CENTER, you'll fall for this cream knee-length coat with roomy black pockets and black detailing

on the sleeve by Kenneth

AT RIGHT: Finally, you'll see the night in this mod-inspired and bold blue coat from Herrera with a belt that accents the positive.

Developing a love interest can be a common underlying and sometimes unintended reason for a coaching arrangement.

"I sought out (Ioanna Chaney) for career reasons because I had been reading about executive coaches in business periodicals," said one Chicago woman, a 39-year-old marketing executive who preferred not to be identified.

"It became obvious quickly that it would be hard to talk about my career goals in a vacuum," she said. "Clearly my life was out of balance and I was devoting no time or energy to finding a partner and starting a family."

"We shifted into life coaching. I didn't expect and, quite frankly, I don't know if I would have called if I knew that going in," she said.

Yet this client has recommended Chaney to several female friends with similar lopsided lives of successful careers and spotty dating histories.

"I wish Ioanna was one of my family members so I could see her 12 times a year around the dinner table," said the Chicago woman. "She helped me realize I had left my finding a romantic partner strictly up to fate," said the woman. "I started taking specific actions such as getting out more with single people and being open to fix-ups. It has prompted friends to think of me as willing to meet a guy."

For her part, Chaney represents a new breed of life coaches who aim to eliminate any stereotypes about fly-by-Internet credentials. She earned an MBA from the University of Chicago in 1998, graduated from a coaching institute in 1999 and is currently working on a master's in social work at U of C.

She also can point to starting,

building and then selling successful business.

"I plan to keep learning growing right along clients," said Chaney. "I don't shy away from her role as a coach-turned-partner. 'Most people live assistant manager. You are the CEO of your life.'"

How to make the decision

Answering "yes" to one of these questions indicates might benefit from a life coach.

■ Is there a gap between you are and where you'd like to be in your relationships, strength, career, health or simple enjoyment of life?

■ Does the idea of a life coach appeal to you?

See COACH, Page 10

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CONTRA COSTA TIMES

inner tonight: Chicken piccata with rice

CAROL MIGHTON HADDIX
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

One of my favorite restaurant dishes is veal piccata. But I think about re-creating the dish at home. It is expensive. So one night, after checking out the refrigerator for something quick for dinner, I used some leftover chicken, a container of mushrooms and a lemon, and turned out a version of piccata that was as acceptable.

Served over rice with a salad on the side, the chicken became a meal in just 30 minutes.

Biscotti and strawberries
Sauvignon blanc

Tips

Leftover chicken from a supermarket rotisserie bird would work well in this.
Try mixed wild mushrooms for a splurge.
First thing, start the water boiling for the rice.

CHICKEN PICCATA WITH RICE

2 tablespoons butter
8 ounces sliced mushrooms
1 tablespoon flour
Zest and juice of 1 small lemon
1 can (14 1/2 ounces) chicken broth
2 cups cooked chicken pieces
2 tablespoons capers, chopped

1/2 teaspoon salt
Freshly ground pepper
2 tablespoons whipping cream, optional
1 1/2 cups raw rice, cooked to package directions
1/4 cup chopped flat-leaf parsley

1. Heat butter in large skillet. Add mushrooms; cook over high heat, stirring, until lightly browned, about 5 minutes. Sprinkle with flour. Cook, stirring, 1 minute.
2. Stir in lemon zest and juice, scraping up browned bits. Stir in broth, chicken, capers, salt and pepper to taste. Reduce heat; simmer 5 minutes. Stir in cream. Spoon mixture over rice. Sprinkle with parsley.

Preparation time: 20 minutes, cooking time: 11 minutes, makes 4 servings.



JAMES F. GUINN/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

CHICKEN PICCATA, made with a container of fresh mushrooms and some leftover chicken, becomes a whole new dish with a bright lemon sauce.

Technology makes stuffing turkey safe

PRACTICAL INNOVATIONS

WILMONT, IL — Practical Innovations has recently patented new technology that may be the answer to cooking a safe stuffed turkey. There is controversy on the dangers of cooking stuffing in a dry turkey.

There are also unsettling stories of food poisoning due to undercooked stuffing because it is never sure if the stuffing will reach 165 degrees; the temperature necessary to kill harmful bacteria.

Now cooks can rest assured the stuffing they cook in their turkey will not be undercooked. The invention, the "Roasting Wand," makes cooking a turkey safer and easier by cooking from the inside out.

Simply insert the hollow Roasting Wand into a stuffed turkey and the heat goes right to the stuffing. The turkey cooks to perfection at higher temperatures and in less time, giving you a cooler kitchen and energy savings (time savings vary).

The Roasting Wand is an adjustable stainless steel tube that is inserted into a stuffed turkey, or other stuffed poultry. When placed in the oven, the heat is conducted through the tube allowing the stuffing to be cooked from the inside.

Richard Sherwin, president of Practical Innovations, said that his invention, will increase internal temperatures and reduce overall cooking time.

"With the heat going through the center of the stuffing I was

amazed at how fast the stuffing temperature rose," Sherwin said. "The idea came to me while attending culinary school. I wanted to safeguard my family from the dangers of food poisoning, the time savings was an additional bonus."

For those who love turkey, they can now eat it worry free. The Roasting Wand is available at local kitchen and gourmet shops and it can be ordered directly from the manufacturer by calling 630-257-7476 or from the Web site: www.roastingwand.com for \$19.95 (plus shipping and handling).

While supplies last, customers receive a free kitchen thermometer with their purchase. Visit www.roastingwand.com for more information.



AFTER MEAL: The heat convection created by the Roasting Wand results in higher temperatures inside your stuffing. This reduces the potential for bacterial contamination and gives evidence that you are serving safe stuffing to your family.

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Dinner in minutes: Pasta Stuffed Tomatoes with White Bean Salad

BY LINDA GASSENHEIMER
KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

Ripe, juicy tomatoes are perfect for stuffing and are very inviting served on a platter with White Bean Salad.

To speed things up, I have used the pulp and juice from the tomatoes as the base for the dressings in both recipes. By using a food processor, you can make this dinner in the time it takes to boil the water and cook the pasta.

You can chop everything in the food processor without having to wash the bowl each time. Grate dry ingredients such as the Parmesan first, then chop the mint. Chop the onion next and, finally, puree the tomato pulp.

Ripe, juicy tomatoes are perfect for stuffing.

This meal contains 539 calories per serving, with 30 percent of them from fat.

Helpful hints

- Red, yellow or green pepper may be used.
- Red kidney beans may be substituted for the cannellini beans
- To make Parmesan curls for the bean salad, buy the Parmesan in one piece and shave off several curls with a potato peeler. Grate the rest for the tomato stuffing.

Countdown

- Place water for pasta on to boil.
- Preheat oven to 350 degrees for bread.
- Make tomatoes.
- Make bean salad.

Fred Tasker's wine suggestions

Pasta and tomatoes — what could go better than a nice Italian chianti? If you prefer white, try a sauvignon blanc.

PASTA-STUFFED TOMATOES

- 1/3 cup small pasta (acini pepe, alphabets, orzo)
- 2 medium tomatoes, about 1/2 pound each
- 2 tablespoons chopped red onion
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper

- 1/2 cup chopped fresh mint
- 3 tablespoons grated Parmesan cheese

Place a pot filled with 3 to 4 quarts water on to boil. When water is boiling, add pasta and cook 10 minutes.

Meanwhile, wash and stem tomatoes. Cut in half lengthwise. Take a small slice off the bottom of each tomato half so that it will sit up straight.

With a serrated knife, cut around inside edges and remove pulp and seeds, leaving the shell intact. Chop pulp in food processor or by hand.

Measure 1 cup of processed tomato and place in bowl or return to bowl of food processor if using one. Add onion, lemon juice and olive oil.

Mix well. Add salt and pepper to taste. Reserve about 3/4 of the sauce for the bean salad.

Drain pasta and mix with remaining sauce. Add mint and parmesan. Taste and adjust seasonings if necessary.

Spoon stuffing into 4 tomato halves and place on serving platter, leaving space in the center for the white bean salad.

Makes 2 servings.

WHITE BEAN SALAD

- 1/2 French baguette
- 1/4 small head romaine lettuce
- Tomato sauce reserved from Pasta-Stuffed Tomatoes
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 medium garlic clove, crushed
- 1/2 teaspoon dried rosemary
- 1/2 teaspoon dried sage
- 1 small red bell pepper, cut into pieces about the same size as the beans

- 1 cup rinsed and drained canned cannellini beans (white kidney beans)
- 1 tablespoon shaved Parmesan cheese

Salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste

Preheat oven to 350 degrees and warm bread for 5 minutes. Wash and dry lettuce. Tear into bite-size pieces and arrange in the center of a serving platter.

Pour reserved tomato sauce from stuffed tomato recipe over lettuce. Heat oil in medium saute pan. Add garlic and herbs. Saute 2 to 3 minutes. Remove from heat. Add bell pepper and beans and toss in the hot pan to coat with herbs and garlic. Spoon over lettuce.

Shave Parmesan with a potato peeler and sprinkle over beans. Serve with warm baguette.

Makes 2 servings.
Recipes developed by Linda Gassenheimer for the Miami Herald.

A family learns the basics of free-form art — toes

BY JEAN NASH JOHNSON
THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

PLANO, Texas How many kids can brag that they painted an original work of art with their feet during summer vacation with their grandparents?

Eight-year-old Shelby Kuhnert, her brother David, 10, and first cousin Corey Tucker, 11, can. They visited their grandma and grandpa, David and Nancy Ostrander, in June, wet their feet in black latex paint and took a walk on a 3-foot-by-8-foot plywood canvas painted red by Grandpa.

The idea started last summer when Mr. Ostrander decided he wanted the children to experience art in a fun and interactive way. They walked on Sheetrock that eventually became a unique piece of art documenting not only the three's visit, but also their foot sizes and creative senses.

Grandpa calls it "grandbaby art." After the "paint walking" and the drying, the kids' grandparents proudly showed off the work on the wall of the Plano couple's family room — a bold red canvas filled with varying sizes of black footprints in every direction. Grandpa Ostrander says he loves watching admirers as they try to figure it out.

"We don't always tell them what it is at first," he says with a grin. "It's my favorite thing in the room."

Now, the Kuhnert kids' other grandma wants her own original. So this summer they repeated the process.

No problem for the artists. "I like art and do it regularly. I draw and paint and do wood carving," says Corey, who lives in McKinney, Texas, and joins his two Iowa cousins at their grandparents' in summer. "It makes me feel like a real artist."

In Granddaddy's garage, on a hot June afternoon, they each carry a can of paint to the garage. The floor is lined with plastic.

Grandpa pours the black paint into a roller tray. Corey and Shelby change out of their favorite shirts in case of unexpected splashes. The chosen colors are intense, but latex washes out, says Nancy Ostrander. The couple experimented with several color combinations before choosing. "Red and black was just very dramatic," says Nancy.

The human paintbrushes ready-steady themselves for their moves on the huge plywood canvas lying on the center of the floor. Each child perches on a paint can

waiting a turn. Corey is the wild man who likes to build plywood ramps for his biking escapades. He goes on the canvas first and decides the first path. His grandparents brace him as he steps, gingerly at first, not knowing how slippery the paint will be.

"Yeah, this time I used a more grainy texture on the surface to help with slipping and sliding. The no-slip stuff is a nonskid floor finish additive," Grandpa Ostrander says. This year, they're using plywood instead of Sheetrock because Grandpa Ostrander says plywood is more durable.

Shelby, kind of a daredevil, too, her grandma says, goes next. Grandpa David dips her Size 1s into the cool black paint, and she lets out a soft "oooooh." Flanked by both grandparents, she was a little wobbly on her first path.

"Little steps are OK," Grandpa Nancy says to Shelby.

"It can get kind of slippery if we don't help them keep their balance," says Mrs. Ostrander. The third grader went out of her way to stray from Corey's path, creating a set of footprints that angle down, then right to the very edge.

David went next. "You want to try one right down the middle

there?" Grandpa asks. He insists he can top his cousin's paths. He trails across Corey's path and help across the board. Parents help anyway.

Each child returned to the garage floor. As she walked, painted black boots on and a heart on her thigh. Shelby each other and then they will wrap print.

trander explained. In the search for bare spots, the routes are plotted and there are crisscross paths all over the job is complete, three days to dry.

Each artist surveys and declares it "cool," and "perfect."

"It's so much fun to be in the paint," says David. "I like making it to see it," Corey says. And Shelby perhaps the trio.

"It makes me feel cause the people painted something I did wall."

Easy cooking substitutes

MSW

Aaack!! Here you are, elbow-deep in your latest culinary masterpiece, only to find that you're out of one of the ingredients that the recipe calls for.

Don't panic! Keep this ingredient substitution guide handy in case of an cooking emergency.

1 teaspoon baking powder —

1/3 teaspoon baking soda and 5/8 teaspoon cream of tartar

1 cup brown sugar — 1 cup sugar plus 1 teaspoon molasses

1 cup butter — 1 cup margarine or 7/8 cup shortening and 1/2 teaspoon salt

1 cup heavy cream — 3/4 cup milk and 1/3 cup butter or margarine (in cooking and baking only)

1 cup light cream — 3/4 cup milk and 3 tablespoons butter or margarine or 1 cup evaporated milk (in cooking and baking only)

1 whole egg — 2-1/2 teaspoons sifted dry whole egg powder

1 egg white — 2 teaspoons sifted dry egg white powder with 2 teaspoons water

1 cup sifted all-purpose flour — 1 cup rice flour

1 clove garlic — 1/8 to 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder

1 cup catsup — 1 cup tomato

sauce, 1/2 cup sugar and 1 spoon vinegar

1 teaspoon lemon juice

1 cup mayonnaise — 1 cup cream or 1 cup cottage cheese pureed in blender

1 cup milk, buttermilk — 1 cup plain yogurt, whole milk and 1 tablespoon juice

1 cup plain yogurt — 1 cup cottage cheese blended with 1 cup sour cream or 1 cup

Ten hints to get out of credit card debt and stay

MSW

Swipe! You bought that painting you've had your eye on. Swipe! You now own that new pair of shoes everyone is wearing. Swipe! You paid for dinner for you and a friend. What's not to like about a credit card?

You don't have to carry around cash or even have the money in your account. Plus, you can establish credit and shop online or at the phone.

But credit cards do carry risks. They can put you in debt and ruin your credit rating. They can prevent you from getting approved on an apartment lease, a car loan or a department store credit card.

These tips can help you reduce debt now and in the future:

1) Reduce your interest rate. Rates vary depending on your credit standing, the bank and the level of the card (like gold or platinum).

Some credit cards offer low introductory rates, but don't be fooled — the rate will eventually increase, so ask how much it will hike in advance.

2) Don't spend more than you make. That way, you'll avoid getting into debt in the first place.

3) Set a budget and track how much you are spending.

4) Use cash instead of credit. That way, you'll be sure not to spend more than you have on hand and likely won't buy something you don't really need.

5) Pay off more than the card's minimum payment each month, and pay on time to avoid more charges. The interest you owe will be higher if you pay only the minimum.

6) If you have balances on several cards, consolidate all your debt onto one low-rate card, making sure there's no cost for transferring bal-

ances.

7) Pay off high interest rate cards first. But if your rates are all the same, pay off the smallest balance first.

8) Avoid cards that require annual fees. If you choose a card with rewards like frequent flier miles, it's a waste if you have to pay a fee and you don't even travel that often.

9) Learn the power of negotiation. Apply for a new card, plead your case to your company. It will likely win you as a customer and reduce your interest rate.

10) Avoid taking out advances. Cards often charge higher interest rates on withdrawals.

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Room to grow: When it's time for sibling roommates to split

BY MELISSA JORDAN
KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

AN JOSE — The last straw have been when my older sister tried to charge her little room for a drawer in the room. When the younger daughter hamster, and the creature's small romps on a squeaky exercise wheel kept the older sister's room. The time had come for separate bedrooms. The girls had shared a room all their lives, as siblings often do in cramped areas where many families buy small houses if they can't afford to buy at all. In a 1,000-square-foot house with three bedrooms, one of which was used as a family room with a television, video games and telephones. But the girls kept asking to have their own bedrooms. We had the trade-offs and decided to make the move. Child-development experts say that children can thrive in any rooming arrangement — shared or solo — but there are pros and cons to each. The key is how families handle the situation. For us, it was worth sacrificing

the family room to give the girls their own space.

Nora, 12, needed a quiet place to concentrate on her increasingly heavy homework load and wanted to be able to talk on the phone with her friends in private. Zoey, 10, was tired of having her older sister control the radio and dominate the use of space. (Like the entrepreneurial idea from Nora, who has the larger dresser, to empty out one drawer and rent it to her sister for 50 cents a week.)

"It's no surprise that the American ideal is to have your own bedroom," says Dr. Margo Thienemann, director of the Anxiety Disorders Clinic at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford. "Our society wants people to be able to stand on their own — be extroverted, independent, autonomous."

If you have the option of giving siblings their own rooms, there are several factors to consider in deciding whether it's a good move:

- What are their personalities? Some siblings prefer each other's company and aren't as happy being alone.

- What is their developmental readiness? This varies according

to age and sex. Sisters and brothers can share rooms successfully but may need extra accommodations for privacy, especially with older children who are developing a sense of modesty.

- Do the benefits of rooming together (learning to share and get along, close bonding, more space for other needs of the family) outweigh the advantages of splitting up (greater privacy, clearer responsibility for chores, more freedom for personal expression)?

Cultural differences can be a factor as well. In many parts of the world it's much more common for family members to share close living quarters.

Child psychiatrist Thienemann says parents should be alert to signals that siblings need their own space, but that doesn't necessarily require giving them their own rooms.

Screens can be used to divide a living space, schedules can be set to give each child a time when the room is hers alone and children can be taught to respect each other's privacy and belongings.

"The older kids get, the more value they get from working out disputes themselves," Thienemann

says. "It's a laboratory for the world. A lot of compromise and respect has to go into sharing spaces."

But separating children has its benefits, too. "Having their own room can give them another opportunity to develop as individuals," Thienemann says. "If they're somewhat shy, or they lean on each other a lot, it can be a positive thing to have their own space where they can create a living area the way they like it."

Once our family decided to make the change, the girls got involved in the planning — and the work. Nora chose a hot-pink for her wall and helped do the painting. Zoey picked a sponge-paint treatment of blue over lavender, and inherited the jointly acquired menagerie of Beanie Babies that her older sister no longer wanted.

It was a good opportunity to go through dresser drawers and donate outgrown clothes to charity, clean out the mess under beds and peel off no-longer-cool stickers. All in all, we spent about \$100 at Home Depot on painting and cleaning supplies and \$50 at Wal-Mart for some under-bed boxes and other storage products.

Now the living room is jammed with the electronics, a distraction if you're trying to listen to the nightly news with instant messages pinging in the background.

But Zoey can practice piano on her keyboard in her own room, and she's the only one who has to hear the hamster's aerobics every night. Nora has plastered her walls with posters of Aliyah, Eminem and Ja Rule and she can keep the radio dial on her favorite stations.

And in a few years, when the girls head off to college, we can have a computer room again. And maybe even a guest bedroom.

What to consider before giving kids their own rooms

Going solo: Some benefits of siblings having their own rooms:

- Greater privacy
- Clearer responsibility for chores
- More freedom for personal expression
- Doubling up:** Some advantages of siblings sharing a room:
- Security and comfort for some temperaments
- Chance to learn compromise, conflict resolution
- More room in the home for other family needs

FACTOID

Women in business

According to the Center for Women's Business Research (formerly the National Foundation for Women Business Owners), the rate of growth in the largest women-owned firms — those with the highest revenues and the most employees — exceeds the industry average in every major industry group.

The growth in the number of women-owned firms with revenues of \$1 million or more between 1997 and 2000 is highest in finance/insurance/real estate (61.8 percent), services (43.4 percent), agriculture/forestry/fishing (36 percent) and construction (32.3 percent).

However, the center also reports that just over one in 18 adult women in the U.S. is a business owner.

Across the nation, 5.7 percent of all adult women are entrepreneurs.

Coach

PAGE 2

Are people in your life telling you what you need to make some decisions?

Answering "yes" to two more questions means it might be time for a personal coach.

Do you rarely have time for yourself?

Do you seldom finish what's on your to-do list?

Do you usually running late? Is it time for you to find a life coach or do you yearn for better communication with your partner?

Are you committing to a coach?

Is your first decision is whether

you even think hiring a personal coach is the best idea for your life. If the answer is yes, here are the essentials for finding the right coach:

Understand the coach's role. A psychotherapist focuses on mental health conditions (including depression, anxiety, shyness, obsessive-compulsive behavior).

The life coach helps you move forward with your personal agenda by setting the right goals and keeping you on track. The coach does not tell you what to do (that is more the job of a consultant) or rehash much of your past.

Investigate a prospective coach's credentials. A rising number of trained clinical psychologists have entered the coaching field. Some business consultants have pursued coaching practices.

Yet "anybody can call himself or herself a life coach," said John Blattner, a coach and psychologist based in Downers Grove, Ill. Another personal coach lamented that there is no minimum standard ("not even a high school diploma") to claim the title of "coach."

Coaches themselves have created solutions for consumers. The International Coach Federation has sanctioned 61 coach-training programs. Its 5,500-plus members must be certified through one of the programs, which include a combination of written and oral training. Check out www.coachfed.org for more details.

The ICF suggests interviewing three or more coaches before deciding on one. Ask about experience, qualifications and skills. Request at least two references.

Ask about fees and what you receive in services. The typical life coach might charge \$200 to \$600 per month.

The fee includes an extensive startup assessment (6 to 10 hours of meeting time plus written customized materials) and weekly phone follow-ups. Some of the more successful coaches are charging as much as \$1,000 per month.

"My rule of thumb is to regularly decide if you are getting value for the money you are paying," Blattner said. "That can change over time, and many coaches actually expect you will scale back or no longer need their services. In any case, if you are not experiencing improvement within three months, it's time to find a new coach."

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Paying for college: Good students will have good choices

BY HOWARD AND MATTHEW GREENE
KNIGHT RIDDER TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Every day local and national newspapers run stories highlighting the significant increases in college tuition, fees, and room and board charges. In many cases, colleges, private and public, have increased costs of attendance by five to 10 percent over last year.

Simultaneously, more students are graduating high school and looking to college to provide them with financial and job security. In a tight employment market, higher education is a natural refuge.

Families looking ahead to high school graduation in the next couple of years might be tempted to say, "Forget it! College is so expensive, I'll never be able to attend."

We want to reassure you that despite increased prices, colleges across the country remain affordable to every family.

Students have an important job, however, in making the wealth of financial assistance available from the federal and state governments, non-profit organizations, and colleges themselves more likely to be targeted in their direction.

The fact is that students with good grades and good test scores,

and not necessarily the best grades and test scores, will likely be offered significant merit-based financial awards, in addition to any need-based financial assistance for which they might qualify. They are also likelier to be admitted to their state universities, which provide significant educational opportunities at amazingly low costs.

Many excellent public colleges and universities have in-state costs around \$5,000 per year. Many others fall below \$10,000. With state and federal subsidized loans available to most students, that price should not be prohibitive to students considering the long-term financial and career benefits associated with earning a college degree.

Additionally, students with good grades and test scores will often find great deals at private colleges and universities, most of which offer discounts on their tuition to students they would like to recruit to their institution.

Some 75 percent of students nationally do not pay the full price of college tuition. College tuition figures are starting to become like new car window sticker prices. They are subject to change and negotiation, and good students are often surprised when they receive a "presidential so-and-so \$10,000 merit

award," even when they have not applied for financial aid.

Paying for college means playing it smart and balancing a college application list to include a variety of options: inexpensive public institutions in- and perhaps out-of-state; wealthy private colleges and universities that might be all or mostly "need-blind" in their admission process and which guarantee to cover all or most of a student's financial need upon enrollment; and private and public institutions, often ones that are farther away from home, that offer significant merit-based financial assistance in the form of scholarships that do not need to be repaid.

There is some \$90 billion worth of financial aid available to students today, and some of that can go your way if you work hard to get good grades and strong test scores, research those institutions that fit your talents, interests, and financial needs, and apply to a creative and diverse list of colleges and universities.

Howard and Matthew Greene are the authors of the *Greenes' Guides to Educational Planning*. Readers can send questions to them at 60 Post Road West, Westport, CT 06880 or via e-mail: letters@greenesguides.com.

Online: Site breaks down food values

BY CONNIE BLOOM
KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

Site: FoodCount.com

Address: www.foodcount.com

This entire in the plethora of diet-oriented Web sites is different. If you are truly interested in the nutritional breakdown of the individual foods you eat — and we are talking everything from fats to proteins to macronutrients — you will find these values here.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is the source of information

for this database of 30,000 common foods and beverages, plus several thousand brand names. "FoodCount.com knows the difference between a Burger King Whopper and a generic hamburger," it says in the introductory material.

You get 10 free log-ons to try out the program. FoodCount calculates your nutrient intake for 24 hours and compares it to the recommended daily allowance for your age and gender. You can keep a log and track your eating patterns over time.

We lied and said we consumed two slices of bread, a 3 Musketeers Bar, an orange drink and some taffy and the analysis said not a word about our dietary sugars.

The program simply does not acknowledge sugars. There are no listings for fructose, sucrose, dextrose and the like, all of which should be limited in a prudent diet.

It might be fun to play with the bells and whistles, but we wouldn't fork over \$20 for an annual subscription.

How Long is our Five-Day Sale?

Since we don't know when you bought your paper, we can't tell you exactly how much time you have left. But we can tell you this: if you miss it, you'll have all the time in the world to regret it. Why take the risk? Get over here today. And keep feeling good about yourself.

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Per square foot

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Per square foot

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Reg. \$12.99/sq.ft.

\$6.99

Per square foot

Very Special Purchases

Crema Marfil Select

This is the absolute top grade of this beautiful and popular marble imported from Spain — and we just landed 18 pallets. These 18"x18" tiles usually go for **\$11.99/sq.ft.** While this stock lasts — and only while it lasts — it's

\$6.99

Per square foot

3/4" Solid Birch

We just made an amazing deal on an entire container of this prized and — usually — expensive wood. We made the deal because we're good. We pass it on to you because we're nice. If you've shopped, you know this is normally **\$9.99/sq.ft.**

\$4.99

Per square foot

Wood and Laminates

Aventa Laminate

Four colors in stock

Reg. \$2.99/sq.ft.

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Per square foot

Wood Lookalike

.5" Laminate — 6 colors

in stock — Reg. \$4.69/sq.ft.

\$3.39

Per square foot

QuickStep Laminate

Five colors in stock

Reg. \$3.99/sq.ft.

\$1.69

Per square foot

Longstrip Wood

Four colors in stock

Reg. \$6.99/sq.ft.

\$4.99

Per square foot

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40-oz. Cut Pile Berber

Coastal Charm — 6 colors

Reg. \$23.95/sq.yd.

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Per square yard

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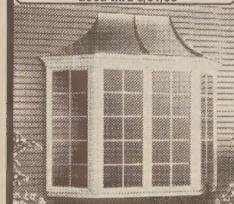
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